

Child and family perspectives on starting school

Here are some questions which may support your knowledge, understanding and relationships with children and families who are involved in transitions to school.

You may already ask some of these questions, you may think of additional ones yourself - either way, choose key questions to help you understand the stories and feelings behind each family. Remember that children and parents need more emotional support than we envisage! Early years providers and schools can work together to gather and share this information.

What would the child/family like to tell you about their child's former pre-school/nursery/ childminder ... or about being at home?

Can the child/family tell you what they enjoyed at their pre-school/nursery/ childminder's ... and at home?

Was there/ is there something they didn't like/are worried about that would be useful to share?

What will the child/family miss from preschool/ nursery/ childminder home?

What does the child think they might do and learn in primary school?
What about the family?

What is the child looking forward to in primary school?

What are they worried about?

Do they have any questions to ask you?

How are the parents/carers feeling about their child transitioning to school?

Do they feel there is something you could do/support with that might help any worries or negative feelings?