

Transitions

At Bottesford Pre-School we organise transitions around the needs of the individual child; we believe that smooth transitions support the personal, social, emotional and educational development, learning and future success of every child. We want children to feel safe, happy and secure in our setting to promote increased self-confidence and independence which will, in turn, aid all future transitions.

Starting Pre-School

Before a child starts their journey through Pre-School, they have the opportunity to attend an open morning, at which time they are free to come and explore the environment, whilst parents spend time meeting the staff. If a child is unable to attend the open morning session, then Pre-School welcomes visits at any time that better suits both child and parent. We provide a Welcome Booklet for all parents that provides information about the Pre-School.

Prior to starting Pre-School, each child is allocated a Key Person who will be responsible for settling the child into the setting. The Key Person will hopefully be able to access 'About Me' on Tapestry, which is filled in by the child's parent, giving valuable information about their child's likes and dislikes, favourite toys and experiences.

If a parent requires additional support separating from their child, this will be sensitively discussed prior to starting and every support given.

At Pre-School

To aid independence each child is allocated a number of name tags with a picture on them, when they start Pre-school. These are used, on their coat peg in the hall, on their personnel trays and as a resource for name writing and labelling. Children are able to bring in their own toys/comforters with them and these can be kept in their trays when not being shared.

With parent's permission, we liaise regularly with other Pre-Schools, child minders, nurseries and other agencies to support the well-being and development of children that may be attending more than one setting.

We liaise daily with parents as they bring and collect their children and also keep them updated by Tapestry, newsletters, social events, committee, website and Facebook.

At Pre-School we can also provide a variety of books and resources for other external transitions that a child may experience whilst with us, ie visiting the Dentist/Doctors/Hospital.

Transitions to School

We have regular visits to school throughout the year for a variety of different events; for example, we are invited to watch the nativity at Christmas, Sports Day in the summer and often go just to say hello, this helps the children to familiarise themselves with the surroundings and meet staff. The teachers also come to visit us at Preschool, maintaining strong relationships with all the local feeder schools who provide school welcome booklets for parents and children to look through.

As per our Key Person policy we share observations and assessments of children, including learning schemas, with the Foundation Stage teacher through a Transition Report in the summer term. Transition Reports are hand delivered to local schools by a member of staff.

In preparation for school, we set up school role-play. We also introduce songs used in the reception class as well as informing each school of their new cohort's favourite songs/stories. We encourage independence with our "school table" at lunch time; we practice our knife and fork skills at snack time and during other play activities.

We also help with the orders of new school uniforms, displaying all items that are required for school that parents can let their children try on, as well as providing the opportunity to purchase nearly new uniforms.

In the Summer term Mrs Avison, our dedicated Transition Coordinator, sends a letter home to parents, advising them of things to do at home to enhance the routines at Pre-School and aid a smooth transition to school in September. Mrs Avison is always available for support/discussion on any aspect of transition.