

# Creating photo books to support transitions

One of the many transition support tools which can be created is a Photo Book. These can be useful to support a child giving them visual information about their new setting and the people in it.

Photo Books can be produced in many formats:

- Paper versions – cut and stick!
- Electronic Templates
- Apps for iPad or androids (see below for examples)

## Why make a photo book?

- to prepare a child for a change or vertical transition;
- to share visual information with the child and their family;
- to provide opportunities for the family to discuss the change with the child in their home setting;
- for a constant visual cue that can be referred back to, to support the child's memory; and
- to provide the basis for a social story to help the child rehearse change or prepare for a new situation.

## Contents of a photo book

Below is a list of ideas for photographs which could be included in a child's transition Photo Book. Not all the suggestions may be relevant to the child or setting and some ideas may not even be on the list. The important thing is to make the book as relevant and personalised to the child as possible. Try to include the child in as many of the environmental photographs as possible. Making the book fun, engaging and reassuring is the purpose, as this book is used to support the child in the lead up to the change or starting in the new setting.

Environment	Personnel
Outside of building Garden area or playground Bus stop/car park area Front door and entry door to be used by child Corridor, cloakroom and coat hook Door to the ELC/classroom Inside the ELC/classroom Child playing in setting Sensory room/quiet space/low arousal space Staff room/office areas Gym hall/canteen/snack area First aid/medical room Music room/library Toilets/changing space	Child in school uniform, where appropriate Key Worker, EYPs, Group Support Worker Class teacher, PSAs, visiting teachers, other teaching staff Head Teacher Buddy/buddies (with permission) Classroom friends/peers (with permission) Playground supervisor, canteen staff, facilities manager, office staff School nurse, Health Visitor Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist Speech and Language Therapist Specialist teachers: EAL, Deaf, VI, ASN, PSHVT

Visual symbols can also be used to make a social story or illustrate new routines; perhaps a morning/getting ready sequence (with photos) and an afternoon/coming home sequence (with photos). The Highland Council [Transition Pack from Nursery to Primary](#) contains some ideas.

## Useful Links:

[EASEYS for ASN - Transition Supports](#)  
[CALL Scotland](#)  
[Our Story 2](#) - Free digital storytelling app  
[Book Creator online](#)

