

# Enhanced Transition into Early Learning and Childcare

## Information for parents and carers

### Is your child with additional support needs starting their transition into early learning and childcare?

#### Transition is a BIG journey for everyone!

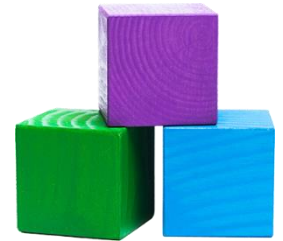
Does your child have an Additional Support Need and are they due to start at an Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) setting, including a commissioned Childminder? They might need a bit of extra help with this big step. This leaflet aims to make that transition a bit easier for all involved, especially your child.

Transitioning somewhere new can be tricky for many children. For children with additional needs, it may be more of a challenge. It can also be an anxious time for parents and carers.

**Enhanced transitions** help to make the process of starting at an ELC easier by planning the different steps which make your child's time there as welcoming and nurturing as possible.

Not every transition will look the same. Your plan should meet your child's needs to help them to settle and enjoy their time in ELC.

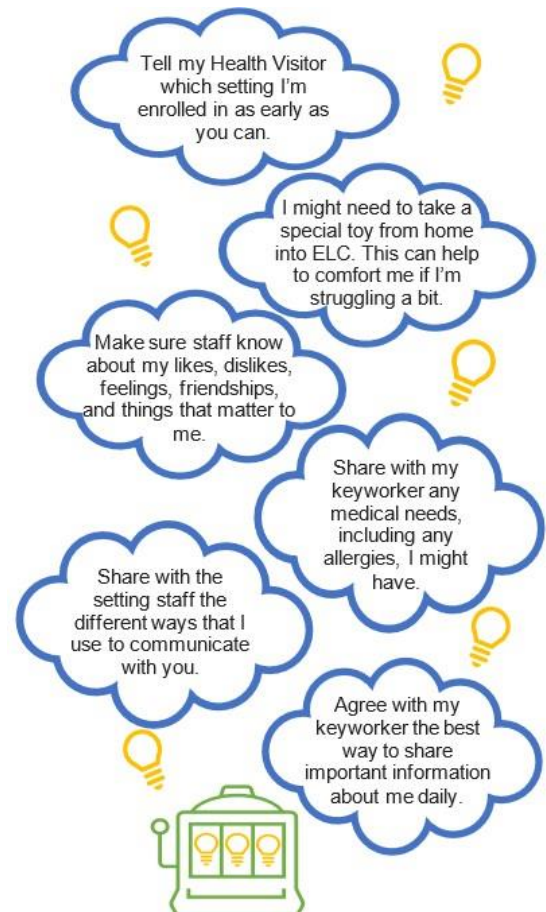
If you think your child needs an enhanced transition, then speaking to your Health Visitor, the setting staff or your Home Visiting Teacher is a great starting point. Read on for some ideas and examples of enhanced transitions, and what this could look like for your child. Some things you could do, and other ideas could be offered by setting staff.



#### Ideas for staff to help children with their enhanced transition

- Make a "walk-through" video of your setting showing the different spaces I might go to. Share this video with me and my family so that we can watch it in the run up to my transition.
- Share a photobook of your setting and staff for me and my family to look at before I start with you.
- Invite me for extra visits to your setting during quiet times and when other children are in too.
- Make sure you have my favourite toys and activities available during my stay and play sessions and transition visits.
- Ask the professionals working with me to share their ideas of how best to support me before I start in my ELC.
- It's a good idea to have a quiet corner I can go to, to relax in. Ask my parents what helps to comfort and soothe me at home.
- Make sure you know the best ways to support my play and share your ideas with other staff.
- Share this leaflet with my parents/carers as this may help to reassure them that my support needs are being considered and planned for right from the start.

#### Ideas for parents/carers to help with their child's enhanced transition



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## Frequently Asked Questions

**When should I share information with the setting staff about my child's needs?**

It's good to share information as soon as you can. You can help the setting staff by contributing to a "Being Me! All About Me" document. The ELC staff will talk to you about this and, ideally, it is best completed 3 months before your child starts ELC.

For some children, there might be a need for building adaptations or specific training for staff. The professionals supporting your child will highlight this to the setting manager earlier than three months.

**Can my child have several visits to the nursery before starting there?**

Yes! Extra visits are a good idea especially when the setting is quieter.

**How will the nursery staff manage my child's sensory needs?**

Staff will put in place whatever is best for your child's needs e.g. quiet times, sensory activities, etc.

**Will the setting support my child's therapy programmes?**

Staff will work with therapists and parents to include recommended activities within the daily routines of the setting.

**What will happen if my child is not toilet trained?**

All children develop this skill at different times. Staff will support your child at whatever stage they are at and work with you to support toilet training at the right time.

**What if my child isn't speaking yet?**

There are lots of different strategies staff can use to support your child's communication, to meet their needs, and help them feel included.

## The transition journey into early learning and childcare settings



Your 2-year-old child may be eligible for an early placement in ELC. You could discuss this with your Health Visitor and the decision will be made by an ELC Commissioner.



3-year-old: If there is a choice of more than one setting you could visit them before enrolment week to help you decide. You might even choose a split placement.



Think about the hours, days, and weekly pattern you'd like your child to attend the setting.



Work with staff to fill in "Being Me!" documents to share lots of useful information about your child.



Meet with the setting staff to plan how best to help your child settle in. What do they need to feel welcomed and supported?



If changing setting, plan for this new transition. Share information about your child with the new staff as early as you can.



Your Health Visitor, Childminder, ELC staff and Home Visiting Teacher can help make sure all the steps in your child's transition journey are in place.

