



Transition Mission

Working together to create comfort,
connections and belonging

BEING EAGERLY AWAITED

The reality is that we feel anxious about a return to our settings. Children pick up on adult's cues. How can we develop whole team approaches to welcoming back our children?

Virtual supervision may be beneficial at this time to gauge the emotional mindsets of educators. Identify specific anxieties, and remember, this transition is happening to everyone...



Happy Memories

Photo
Collage

Favourite Songs
playing at the
entrance

Welcome
gesture or
action



A WARM WELCOME

Usually a warm welcome comes in the form of embraces, hugs, cuddles and close proximity. How can you create this warmth in your environment on children's return? Favourite songs, symbolic warmth such as a unique welcome gesture, big smiles or displays that communicate warmth!

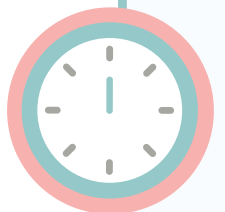
TREATED WITH RESPECT

Children typically do things we don't always want them to do. We may feel frazzled, tempered or annoyed. Catch yourself and remember tone, words and body language can create calm over chaos if done right!



TIME TO SETTLE-IN

Write down your expectations and then more than half-term. Children are not "catching up" but calibrating. This isn't the time to think about outcomes but **getting to know each other again**. And remember you need time to settle-in too.



SAFETY AND RISKS

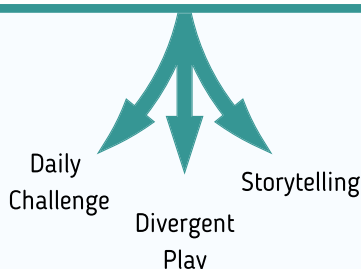
The usual safe risks we encourage may not be feasible for a while but children still need to engage with risk to build resilience.

What ways can we still present challenges and risks?

ALLOW SOME CONTROL

When we don't feel a sense of control, we can experience a whole manner of uncomfortable emotions, and we will do what we can to regain control.

Why not send out a child's voice questionnaire and gather ideas from children. Remember they are divergent and will likely be grateful to have their views considered in the transition.



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REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

This is as much for yourself as the children. What capacity do you have? What worries keep tugging at you? Do you know when something feels uncomfortable or not right? Be clear of your expectations and share them.

Responsive dialogue and active listening is going to be crucial during this time.



Positive Affirmations
Meaningful Praise
Think aloud

FEELING VALUED

Our environments and practices are going to feel a little unusual for some time and it may make us feel out-of-sync and touch. Remember the power of feedback, affection and encouraging words. Recognise the value of your setting and the community you have built



PREDICTABILITY IN ROUTINES

You are likely developing plans and ideas for what an average nursery day will look like. Once this is established, [send out a visual or guide for parents to introduce to children. Prepare them for what to expect.](#)



ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FEELINGS

For many of us, the cruelty of the pandemic is losing a sense of our professional identity. We cannot do what we did, and that is hard. You have full permission to **feel** throughout this and you are not expected to be back all singing and dancing. Just being you is enough



CIRCLES OF CONNECTION

Collaboration is key in preparation. Consider who you can connect with or consult with for ideas. Remember, two heads are better than one and the most innovative ideas comes from listening to those around us who have the same good intentions.



OUR EARLY YEARS FAMILY...

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever we call it, whoever you are, you need one. You need one because you are human" (Jane Howard, Families)

