



# LINKS CHILDCARE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## Transition from Preschool to Primary School

Last Review Date: Nov 2020

Policy No. 40

Issued: January 2019

### Policy Statement.

At Links Childcare we are very conscious of the importance of support, guidance and sensitivity at the time when a child is transitioning from any level of education to another. This is no different for the child who is transitioning from preschool to primary school. This policy is informed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's (NCCA) *Preschool to Primary Transition Initiative, Transition from Preschool to Primary School: Research Report 19 (O'Kane, 2016)*, *Starting Strong: Transitions from Early Childhood Education and Care to Primary Education, OECD (2017)* and *Early Years: An Inspector's Perspective on Practice and Policy, Hislop (2018)*

### AIMS

At Links Childcare our aim is to support progression and continuity of experience as children move from our Crèches to the next step in their education, Primary School.

We aim to make this transition

1. a positive experience
2. as smooth as possible, by promoting certain dispositions, skills and knowledge, including a strong focus on oral language/communication, and the development of positive learning dispositions, including curiosity, independence and resilience
3. easier for the child by fostering a greater alignment between the curriculum of the preschool (inspired by Aistear) and the curriculum of the Primary School
4. pleasant for the child and his/her family by the development of trusting relationships between the preschool and the Primary School
5. meaningful and realistic for the child by involving his/her whole family as she/he moves from preschool to Primary School
6. positive experience for those children who may be experiencing disadvantage, children whose first language is not English, or children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
7. an informed experience by ensuring the transfer of information on children's learning and development between the preschool and the Primary School

### Procedures

Preparation for the move to primary school begins, at Links Childcare, as soon as a young child comes through our doors for the first time. It is important to remember that transformative transitions are not a one-off event, they are something that is prepared for over several months and even years. Every time the child develops another aspect of independence, sitting comfortably on a chair, using a spoon, holding a crayon, being confident enough to express an opinion, – he or she is getting ready for the next stage – getting ready to move on to Primary School.

In mid-May preceding children's entry into Primary School the following September, a more structured programme of preparation is initiated. This includes the children themselves, as they are the most important people in the process, personnel from the Primary schools, the parents and families of the child and the Educators at the Crèches.



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During the month of February, a letter is sent to the Principals of the Primary Schools which will be attended by our children. (Appendix 1) This invites them or a Junior Infant teacher to visit the crèche to meet the children in their current setting. A date in late May is then arranged for the visit. Many of the Primary schools also arrange for the children to spend a little time at the Primary school around this time, and this is supported by the Educarer by discussion, role play etc.

The following is list of activities that may be used by individual crèches to support the transition:

- A visit to the school by the Educarer
- Children visiting the school
- Stories about going to school
- Use of a Transition Resource Box with school related items
- Role-play (at 'big school')
- Use of a HOPE TREE – where the leaves represent the hopes of both parents and children for their new school
- Room displays of photographs of the different schools with children attending below each one
- Dolls dressed in uniforms at the entrance to the crèche
- Display of picture maps showing where the schools are located

### Feedback to Parents

Parents play an important role in the transition process and should be seen as collaborators, with respectful dialogue being all important. In pursuit of this aim a Parent-Educarer meeting is organised for every child moving to Primary School. With the use of a form (attached at Appendix 2) the parents are informed of their child's strengths, talents, relationships with others, skills and then any areas for development are outlined. Parents are encouraged to share the information they have received with the new teacher, particularly if the child needs any special support or has a specific need or circumstance.

### Feedback from the Primary School

In the November following the children's entry to Primary School a form (see attached at appendix 3) is sent to the Primary School Junior Infant teachers asking for feedback on the settling in experience of the children from Links Childcare and asking for any recommendations to improve the transition process.

**Review:** Management and staff will monitor and review the effectiveness of this policy annually.

<b>Review Dates:</b>	January 2020	November 2020	
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