



Transition Policy

The Meaning of Transition

Transition concerns the changes a child encounters from one place to another. As children develop from birth throughout childhood they move, or transition, from one learning environment or setting to a new one. Often these transitions involve a process of change that requires them to adapt their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours to meet new expectations. By the time a child reaches school age they may have already experienced several periods including:

- The transition from home to the setting.
- The transition from one provider to another during the working week.
- The transition from a childcare provider to a school.

Transition is like a journey and takes time, preparation and planning. Adults can help a child's journey into a new territory by supporting them before, during and after the transition occurs. Parents and Practitioners need to work together, sharing information they have about the child and what support he or she may need.

Rationale

Baby Ducks believes all children should feel as comfortable, confident and emotionally secure as possible when entering the setting. Young children starting a playgroup need support to enable them to adjust to a temporary separation from their family. They need to feel that they are a valuable, competent member of the new social group, and they need to develop positive attitudes towards the range of new experiences they will encounter. During transition children need to be helped to retain the self confidence and self respect that they have already gained at home or in a previous setting. Getting to know a child and planning for admission to the playgroup requires parents and practitioners to engage in an equal partnership which both learn from each other.

Our Aim

Transitions involve a process of change that requires a period of adjustment for the parent / carer and their child. To help a family adapt to change, Baby Ducks aims to provide as much continuity of education and care as possible. We will accomplish this by sharing information about a child and working closely with the family, other providers who care for the child and any provider that the child may move onto.

The transition from home to playgroup

Information sharing - The 'All about me Pack' will be used to gain knowledge of children entering into our care.

Every child will be given a key person to be the main contact for the family and give the child a recognisable adult to help them with the settling in period.

Children will be allowed to bring in comforters and object from the family setting or points of reference to family life.

The transition from one provider to another during the working week.

Baby Ducks will ask parents / carers for permission to share information with other settings that the child attends. Once this is given then the key person will endeavour to contact the other settings to discuss sharing information with them.

The transition from playgroup to school.

We recognise that starting school can be a worrying time for children and their parents, and the more that can be done to ease this transition, the more positive an experience it will be for all involved.

Baby Ducks actively encourages teachers from schools to visit the children at the setting before they make the transition.

Baby Ducks will structure activities which will aid the child in preparing for school.

Children will be encouraged to discuss the move to school and given the opportunity to express concerns and fear that they may have. Children that have made the transition from playgroup to school in previous year will be invited to come in and discuss the experiences that they have had at school with the children preparing for the change.

Transition documents will be completed for each child and shared with the parents prior to being forward to the school that the child is due to attend.

How can Families support a Child through Transition

Parents provide stability for children and can facilitate continuity when they are included in the transition process. Families can help by:
Preparing a child for playgroup by explaining you will leave them but you will come back.

Talk to their child about their key person

Parent should find out what their child will be doing at the playgroup so that they can talk about these experiences at home

Share information about children's interests and what they enjoy doing at home with the child's key person

Allow children time to talk through any worries or concerns.