

Welcome to this newsletter from Southwark's Autism Support Team. The topic of this edition is Nursery to Reception Transition.

Transitions are part of everyone's life. When transitions work well, they help children and young people to develop confidence and acquire skills to manage future changes in their lives. The vast majority of children and young people look forward to moving on in learning and in life. For some children, transitions can be challenging and support from parents and staff at school can help the transitions go more smoothly. We hope you find some of the ideas and resources contained within this newsletter helpful.

We have a telephone support service available weekdays, 9am-5pm. More information can be found: [here](#).

All Southwark Schools are welcome to request the involvement of the Autism Support Team (AST). They need to complete this form [here](#) and return to [AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk)

## Training

We are able to offer online options for training. If you wish to register your interest or find out more please email:

[AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk)

- **Next Steps— parent course, under 5's**
- **Toileting workshop**
- **Cygnets**

## Some useful visuals for Reception

1. Transition points can be placed in different areas in the environment and support the transition by matching an identical picture. Please click [here](#). Transition points can also be used in your home or when you are travelling to a location Please click [here](#).

2. The Carpet time visual schedule can be used to support the steps with sitting on the carpet. Please click [here](#)

3. Song choosing board can help to support choosing a song during carpet time or 1:1 sessions. Please click [here](#)

4. Song board visuals can be used to support your child's understanding of the song and make it more motivating. Wheels on the bus song board. Click [here](#) Old MacDonald song board. Click [here](#)



## Question Corner...

**Q:** How can I support my child with transitions at home in preparation for school?

**A:** All individuals must change from one activity to another throughout the day. Whether at home or school, these transitions naturally occur frequently and require individuals to stop an activity, move from one location to another, and begin something new. Children with autism can find these transitions difficult perhaps having a greater need for predictability and difficulty in understanding what activity will be coming next. Children with Autism can also be extremely motivated when it involves their preferred interest and show little motivation to new activities.

A Now and Next visual can be a useful tool to assist individuals with ASD during transitions. It is designed to prepare individuals before the transition will occur and to support the individual during the transition. The Now and Next can be used to support transitions from an adult-led activity to a preferred activity by showing the child that they gain access to their preferred activity once the adult led activity has ended. Please click [here](#) for school Now and Next. Please click [here](#) for home Now and Next.

This short tutorial shows how to use and make a Now and next Board. Please click [here](#).

To be added to our newsletter mailing list or to contact the team with a question/request for a forthcoming newsletter please contact us on:

[AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk)

Clicking on links in this document take you to google drive where the resources can be downloaded. If you would like us to email you any of the resources, use the email above.

# Nursery to Reception Transition Passport

The Autism Support Team has created a Transition Passport to support a child's smooth transition from Nursery to Reception. The passport asks for the parent and the nursery to both share information about the child from the experiences at home and within the nursery. It is common for a child to learn skills in one environment but not necessarily to have generalised these to a second environment. This information will provide valuable insight as to what skills need to be supported and developed so generalisation occurs. A comprehensive passport relies on the collaboration and partnership between the parent, the nursery and the autism support team. Once all of the document is complete it will be sent on to the new setting and shared with the child's new teacher and support staff.

SENCo's, new teachers and support staff can use the information from the passport to create a plan of support for the child. The section on 'My favourite Things' will give the new setting a chance to organise resources and equipment that they think the child will enjoy. A good place to start, would be to create a box of motivating toys for the child and staff to play with. Using these motivators staff can begin to use Pairing. Pairing is a way to develop a relationship with a child to build trust and pair the staff member with good things that the child is motivated by. This relationship and use of motivators will make the teacher more effective and a higher probability that the child will respond to the teacher's instructions in the future. Staff should begin teaching sessions with pairing and before doing any task, following success with an activity/demand they should receive a reward of access to motivating toys. When the child is coming to the adult after pairing the adult can slowly begin to fade in demands to teach new skills. This would be done gradually starting easy and building up to more difficult demands. For more information on Pairing please click [here](#)

Staff can also prepare visuals for these toys so they can begin to introduce structure and communication opportunities for the child. The aim would be for the child to associate access to these toys with the adult they are working with. Knowing and understanding the child's motivations will be an essential component to a successful transition. We want the new environment and routine to be a rich source of reinforcement for the child so they are motivated by the experience. By recognising these strong motivations we can support the child's learning and develop new skills in play, communication and social interaction.

The Transition Passport can also be used to assess life skills and self care skills that can be practiced at home for school readiness: teaching putting coat on, toileting skills and skills required for sitting and eating at a table. Other key life skills that could be developed in preparation for transition: Waiting, accepting no and following instructions.

A copy of the Transition Passport can be downloaded [here](#)

## Here are some fun activities to try at home

- Make a personalised name label for your child's coat peg [here](#)
- Practise walking/travelling the new route to school. Take pictures of the landmarks on your route and make a collage/ map.
- Buy some chalk, draw out a grid and play a game of hopscotch [here](#)
- A game of Bingo! We have created bingo boards using school vocabulary [here](#)
- Contact your school and schedule a video call with your child's new teacher and teaching assistant.
- Practice the first day of school with an interactive game. Click [here](#)
- Inclusive Indoor PE Games - Sock Boccia [here](#)

## Links to useful resources

This is a really good example of a school welcome video for parents and children transitioning to reception from The Grove. Please click [here](#)

Activity programme for children and young people in Southwark and Lambeth. Please click [here](#)

Free downloadable resources for Reception class. Please click [here](#)

Information on transition to school from Raising Children. Please click [here](#)

Information on starting or changing school [here](#)

Summer activities and virtual support group for children with SEND and their parents [here](#)

This is a blank social story template that you can use to support your child's transition [here](#)

Here are some common Makaton signs used in reception class, practice learning these [here](#)