

Creating positive transitions

6 tips for communication during major transitions

Supporting children and families during transitions supports continuity of learning. Effective communication supports successful transitions. When a child with disability engages in any major transition, it is important to carefully consider how the information we share supports a positive experience and outcome for the child that minimises the risk of discrimination based on a child's disability.

Know

Children and families need to be involved in deciding what information is shared with others.

Information about the child's learning and development belongs to the child and family and it is important to respect their wishes and their right to privacy.

Information that is shared (or not shared) can influence the way others view the child.

Sharing information from a strengths-based approach, rather than focussing on the child's needs, will increase expectations for the child's learning and maximise their opportunities for success.

Think

Remember that effective transitions take time and planning.

Think about the key stakeholders who can support the child through a transition. Early conversations and planning about transitions is helpful and can be necessary when reasonable adjustments might be required.

Think about ways to involve the child in making choices during the transition process.

Put yourself in the child's shoes. Reflect on what information might be useful to share to help them learn, make friends and succeed in the new environment. Consider ways to encourage children to make appropriate choices and decisions about their world.

Do

Plan for transition meetings where information will be shared.

This will help you to make informed decisions about the information you share and how to involve the child and family in this process.

Provide information that promotes a holistic, strengths-based view of the child.

Sharing children's interests, strengths and learning preferences is just as important as sharing information about their support needs.



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