

Pre-school to School Case-study- Parent Workshops

A large part of provision for early years settings is supporting children as they move on to Primary school. The local Children's Centre Teacher had previously been a Primary School teacher in both Reception and Key Stage 1, and therefore well informed in terms of knowing where the children are in their current stage of development and the practice they have been used to, and also what will be expected of them as they move to their new school.

In 2006 the Birth to Five Service were co-ordinating a project on transition to school in Gainsborough, and wanted to involve practitioners working in pre-schools and reception classes in the area. The focus of an initial meeting was for settings to share what they already did to support transition and to identify ways in which the transition process could be improved for the children.

It was decided that a questionnaire be drawn up and sent out to both nursery and reception parents to ask them what were their expectations/experiences of the transition process and how they were going to or had chosen their child's primary school. We drew up and distributed the questionnaire to be given to the nursery parents.

Prior to forming the Transition Cluster Group, a Transition Workshop had been held in the Summer Term explaining to parents what transition is and to inform and reassure them about the Early Years curriculum. However, the questionnaires completed by the parents showed that they often chose their children's primary school based on very scant information, often without even looking around the new setting. We were concerned by this and decided that the information being given to them at these workshops, was too little, too late



The Transition Cluster Group decided that, in partnership, we put together and deliver a workshop for parents with information about the local receiver schools and the Early Years curriculum, before they had to make the decision of which Primary school to choose. We arranged for the workshop to be held in Gainsborough Early Years Children's Centre in October prior to the parents making this important decision in December.

We wrote the workshop for the group and we all took on roles within it. The reception teachers were introduced to the parents, we spoke about the Gainsborough Cluster Group and our journey so far, and talked about what parents should be looking for when choosing a Primary school. We also urged them to look around different schools and offered support in filling out the LA admissions form. The workshop was delivered both morning and afternoon and an evening at a different nursery, to include working parents.

Parents took part in active learning activities supported by the teachers and were given time to speak to them at the end of the workshop. Parents were



asked to give their thoughts on the workshop as a short evaluation.