

Transition in Early Years

Transition in early years education is a crucial phase that impacts children's development and long-term learning outcomes. Effective CPD (Continuing Professional Development) in this area helps educators support children through changes such as starting nursery, moving to reception, or adjusting to new environments. Deepening understanding of transitions in early years requires a combination of research, professional development, and practical strategies.

1) Recognising the Importance of Feeling "Known"

Children thrive when they feel secure and familiar with their environment. High-quality transitions ensure continuity between home and educational settings, helping children feel comfortable and confident.

3) Providing Emotional Support

Practitioners play a vital role in easing transitions by being warm, responsive and recognising challenging behaviours as manifestations of emotions. Supporting friendships and peer interactions can also help children feel more secure.

5) Structured CPD Programs

Engaging in CPD courses focused on transitions can provide educators with evidence-based strategies to support children effectively. Resources such as the Evidence Store offer valuable insights into transition management.

2) Addressing Common Challenges

Separation Anxiety: Many children struggle with leaving familiar environments, leading to distress or withdrawal.

Uncertainty in New Environments: Unfamiliar routines and faces can create insecurity.

Forming New Relationships: Building connections with peers and caregivers is crucial for emotional well-being.

4) Professional Dialogue and Collaboration

Transitions are opportunities for professional discussions between educators, caregivers and families. Open communication ensures children receive consistent support across different settings.



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