

EVIDENCED EXTRA NEWSLETTER

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Raising the game in school readiness

A national initiative

The Starting Reception document offers a practical, parent-friendly guide to supporting children as they begin school. It emphasizes that school readiness starts at home, with everyday routines building confidence and independence. Key areas include communication, physical development, self-care, and emotional literacy. The document stresses that all children develop at their own pace, with additional guidance for those with special educational needs or those who are summer-born or speak English as an additional language. It encourages play, creativity, and real-life experiences, while promoting strong partnerships between families and early years professionals to ensure a smooth, supported transition into Reception.

Interviewing for new staff don't forget the EYFS Qualification Checker

As an early years manager or leader, you can use the new Check an early years qualification service to:

check if an early years qualification achieved in England is approved as full and relevant by the Department for Education

confirm if someone who holds this qualification can count in staff:child ratios at level 2, 3 or 6 in an early years setting in England

information to support early years leaders and managers check their staffs' qualifications



Year 1 Transition

Transition from Reception to Year 1 is not just a physical movement between rooms or buildings—it represents a shift in pedagogical approaches, expectations, routines, and relationships. Reflective Questions for Practitioners

1. How does our current transition practice align with the principles of continuity and care?
2. Are Year 1 environments developmentally appropriate and emotionally responsive?
3. How are parents and children actively involved in the transition process?



Research (O'Connor, 2013; Whitebread, 2021) shows that poorly managed transitions can impact wellbeing, engagement, and attainment well into Key Stage 1.

Be part of a select group and join me on a journey in research-led EYFS /Year 1 practice that stands out.

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Woven Wonders: The Threads That Bind EYFS -Embedding and Deepening Practice in the EYFS Cohort Two

Thanks to my test pilot Spring schools for this trialing the full format of this programme. This is now being rolled out from September to all schools who are interested. I would appreciate anyone passing on the flyer attached so we can create a broader group.

“From first stitch to lasting structure: we embed what matters.”

Upcoming Network Themes

- Digging deep in block play and working out how effective it is.
- Monitoring Year 1 Autumn Term
- The easy guide to setting up School based Nurseries



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