



# Stornoway Primary Nursery



## Early Years Transitions



## Introduction

Transitions are the moves children and young people make from home to nursery, from stage to stage and through Curriculum for Excellence levels. 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. Some children may need particular help perhaps including some other agencies to ensure that they feel confident about the transitions. It helps children at all transitions if staff and parents:

- Talk with them about what is going to happen
- Encourage them to talk about any concerns or anxieties
- Listen carefully to their concerns and consider sharing them with other relevant people
- Help them become familiar with the new setting and what will be expected of them.

Scottish Government Curriculum for Excellence Fact-file - Transitions June 2011

'Transition is considered to be an adjustment over time to new contexts outside the family, where children experience changes to their social environment, to their routines, to what is expected of them and to the relationships they have with others in new situations'

*Realising the Ambition: Being Me pg.89*



# Stornoway Primary Nursery

## Vision

To create a Nursery where children learn through play in a happy, creative, healthy and fun environment.

## Aims

To give every child the best possible start in life, Stornoway Primary Nursery will:

Provide a safe and stimulating environment where children are respected, valued and included in all aspects of Nursery life.

To enable each child to develop their full potential as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors in a high quality learning environment.

To consult with children and build on partnerships with families, the community and other agencies to provide support for all.

To promote our children's health and well-being, encouraging self-esteem and a respect for diversity and a fairness in life.

To promote, develop and celebrate Gaelic language and culture throughout the Nursery and wider community.



## As a Staff we aim to:

- Ensure all children and their parents/carers are personally greeted and welcomed when they arrive. Parents/Carers and their child will be invited to visit the Nursery and to complete relevant paperwork.
- Guide you on how to complete your child's Care Plan and Profile
- Deal sensitively with any anxieties your child or parents/carers may have.
- Introduce you and your child to their Key Worker and other staff in the playroom.
- Provide you with information on *GME*, the methodology behind it and on how parents can support their child's bilingual education.
- Answer any questions.



## During the Child's Settling in Session:

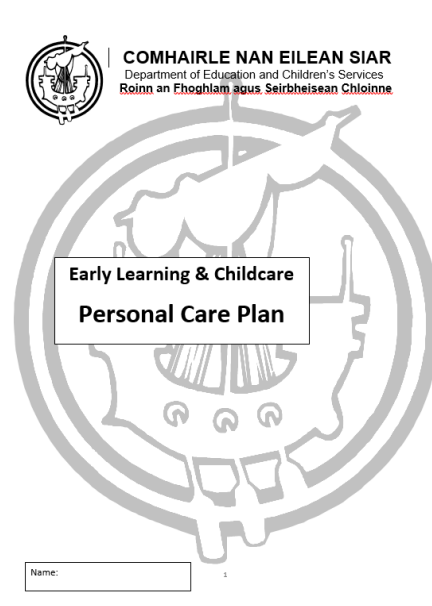
Our settling in sessions run over 2 x 1 hour sessions.

- During the first session parents remain on site and it gives them a chance to complete relevant paperwork and chat with staff.
- If your child is happy and settled, you may leave them for the remainder of the settling period. We encourage you to leave them during the second session.
- If your child is having difficulty with separation from parents/carers, then you are encouraged to stay for a short time and work together with the key worker to reassure and settle the child.
- In cases where a child does not settle easily then time is given to make a gradual entry into Nursery, working with parents to build confidence and trust.



## What is a Care Plan?

On entering Nursery and in partnership with parents/carers, we create a Care plan for each child. Care Plans contain details about the child such as contact details, any other involvement from agencies and most importantly, details about how we can best meet the needs of your child. Our Care Plans are a standard CNES Early Years format.



## What happens During our First Meeting?

During your initial meeting, once your child is settled, the Key Worker will meet with you to discuss your child's Care Plan. This will give staff an opportunity to get to know you and your child so we can meet your child's needs as best we can.

Don't worry if your child doesn't settle in their first few sessions - it's normal! This is a new environment for them. If required, we can arrange another more suitable time to meet with you.

## A Typical Day in Nursery

The children come in between 8.30-9.30am, 11.45-12pm and 12.45-1pm. When they enter the playroom, they hang up their jackets and wash their hands.



The children engage in play activities when they come in.



After tidying up, the children are engaged in a focused maths or literacy teaching activity for 15 mins. After this, they choose stations to engage in child led learning activities including Loose Parts Play and a variety of indoor and outdoor learning.



We have snack time in the morning and in the afternoon. A range of healthy foods are available along with water or milk. We cater for any child with food allergies. The children are encouraged to help prepare snacks.



Lunchtime is at 12pm. Children can bring a packed lunch from home or have a canteen lunch. Canteen lunches are free for all Nursery children. An online menu choice form is sent out to all parents a week in advance.



We continue with our learning into the afternoon including a focused 15 min teaching activity focusing on an area of the curriculum. Our learning is regularly shared through our closed Facebook page and the digital platform SeeSaw.





## Moving on to Primary 1

The transition from Nursery to Primary School marks a huge milestone in a child's life. It is a change which is viewed with excitement and trepidation by many children and families. A change of environment and daily routines in any aspect of life can be unsettling for children. Many transitions are made along a child's learning journey, from home to Nursery and then from Nursery to Primary School.

Education Scotland states that the transitions from nursery to primary School have always been recognised as 'a critical time of change for children, parents and practitioners, which is full of opportunity and potential.'



## Visiting Primary 1

Throughout their time in Nursery, the children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities in the Primary School. They are invited to join the school children in sharing a number of activities across the curriculum. Shared activities include attending assemblies and other presentations, participating in story telling sessions and sharing experiences through purposeful play.



## Pre-School to Primary 1

Cfe provides an important opportunity to enhance transitions between Nursery and Primary. CfE Early level spans pre-school to the end of Primary 1 (for most but not all children) and naturally promotes collaborative working between sectors. In the pre-school year, children are involved in a planned programme of activities prior to the move to Primary School. All of these activities support the children effectively, ensuring they are confident and ready to enter the next phase of their learning in Primary 1.

# Nursery - Primary 1 Transition Programme

## Term 1

- Developmental Overviews for 4 year olds shared and intervention projects planned.

## Term 2

- P1 CT visits Nursery to carry out activities with children and to assist planning for Early Literacy, Numeracy and Health opportunities.
- Classroom visits begin towards the end of term. Children visit the P1 classrooms in small groups and participate in play tasks.
- Nursery children join some school events.
- Playrooms perform at the school's Christmas Concert
- Our ASN (Additional Support Needs) staff visit the playrooms to work alongside children who may require additional support in school.

## Term 3

- Regular classroom visits to P1 help children become familiar with the room and to join in with play activities.
- P1 class teachers will visit the Nursery to undertake Literacy and Numeracy activities.
- Older children within the school will visit the Nursery to participate in paired/shared reading activities.
- Nursery children will attend and participate in a number of school events.

## Term 4

- Children will begin to join school break times along with their buddies.
  - Moving up session in June when pre-schoolers spend time in the P1 classes. Parents are invited to a P1 information session with an opportunity to meet the teacher and visit the classroom.
  - Class teacher will formally meet with the key workers to discuss each child and with the Play leader to revise the transition programme for next year.
  - Handover records will be given to the class teacher before the end of June.
  - Children with additional Support Needs will have CT invited to Team around the Child meetings.
- ❖ If a child joins us from another setting, we will ensure that we communicate with them to allow for a smooth transition. The process of settling in would follow the same format as our initial settling in procedures.

