

Transition to School for children with Disabilities and Additional Needs

This information is designed to help educators to understand and support children with disabilities and their families in relation to the transition to school.

Important activities for Term 1 of the year prior to starting school

Educators can:

- ▶ Identify children with additional needs and establish which children will be attending school the following year.
- ▶ Familiarise yourself with school options in your area, referring to the Department of Education policies, school exemption information, and the Ready Set School resource for Educators. Your Preschool Inclusion Consultant is available to provide assistance with further detailed information about local transition to school options and detailed information for families of children with additional needs.
- ▶ Meet with families for initial discussions about preferences and options for their child's schooling, providing information regarding public, Catholic and independent schools and support classes.
- ▶ Provide families with practical information about the transition to school process from the Department of Education and using resources from Reimagine Australia's Ready Set School resource for Families.
- ▶ Encourage families to make contact with their local public school as this provides a guaranteed place for their child.

Support families to:

- ▶ Talk to their child's preschool/day care teachers, therapists, and early intervention professionals to discuss the support that might be needed at school.
- ▶ Consider options and attend open days, arrange visits to schools and/or support classes if relevant.
- ▶ Arrange preliminary interviews following visits to open days and schools of interest.
- ▶ Think about potential questions to ask to prepare for approaching schools.
- ▶ Check with schools of interest which assessments or standardised tests might be required and useful for enrolment. Also check the date that applications and accompanying assessments are required by the school.
- ▶ Plan and book updated assessments. Examples include a cognitive assessment for children who have been previously diagnosed with a Global Developmental Delay (GDD) and others where there is a suspected GDD. Examples of assessments include The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) conducted by a psychologist and/or a Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF) language assessment with a speech pathologist to provide detailed information about the child's expressive and receptive language.

For more information see our new Transition to School for children with disabilities page on the KU SCB Program Inclusion Gateway website [here](#)