

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 2 of the year prior to starting school

Educators can:

Discuss with families their progress with attending open days, visiting prospective schools, booking updated assessments, and making applications for schools and/or support classes.

- ▶ Support families to understand the eligibility criteria for relevant specific support classes or special schools (SSPs) across all school systems if they are unsure or would like more information about their child's school options. Ensure families are aware of any enrolment application dates e.g., Catholic, and independent schools may have earlier cut off dates and public schools have placement panel dates where applications for support classes and Special Schools (SSPs) are considered.
- ▶ Provide any additional information that may be relevant to a particular school option e.g., access to assisted transport. Refer to Reimagine Australia's Ready, Set, School resource available on the KU Inclusion Gateway website.
- ▶ Continue talking with families about their child's strengths, preferences, and support needs in the preschool environment to help them to consider school options.
- ▶ Review the child's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) goals in collaboration with the child's family and others involved and ensure that at least one goal relates directly to the transition to school process.

Support families to:

- ▶ Develop a list of questions they would like to ask potential schools and information they would like to share about their child.
- ▶ Make a list of the pros and cons of each school option following school visits and prioritise preferred options.
- ▶ Book and complete any updated assessments their child may require, in preparation for enrolment applications.
- ▶ Approach any schools of interest to arrange appointments.
- ▶ Attend open days at schools of interest scheduled for term 2 and/or arrange visits to any schools and/or support classes of interest.
- ▶ Meet with and complete an enrolment application for their local public school as this provides a guaranteed place for their child. The school counsellor can also provide information about other public school options.
- ▶ Consider taking along a trusted friend or support person to school visits, open days, or meetings.

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