



NSW Transition to School Statement

Information sheet for early childhood educators

Information to help early childhood educators complete the NSW Transition to School Statement – **Sections A, B and C**

Starting school is a major event in the life of children and their families.

As an early childhood educator, you play a key role in ensuring that children within your care are well equipped to embark on the next stage of their learning.

We know that strong relationships and information sharing between families, early childhood settings and schools before children start school helps ensure a smooth transition.

What is the NSW Transition to School Statement?

The NSW Transition to School Statement is a practical and simple tool to make it easier for information to be shared between families, early childhood services and schools.

Early childhood educators, families and children are able to contribute to the Statement, which includes:

- a summary of the child's strengths, their interests and approaches to learning
- an outline of the strategies that have supported the child's learning to date
- advice to support Kindergarten teachers in getting to know the children entering their class, and
- a parent's perspective on their child's early learning and development.

By completing the Statement and working with the child to complete his or her part of the Statement, you will give the child's school teacher important information that will help the child to have a successful start to school.

Why is a positive start to school important?

Early childhood experiences are vital for children's brain development (Mustard 2002). A quality transition to school continues children's development and learning. Pianta (2004) writes that a good transition to school process ensures children will start school ready to learn and schools will be ready for children.

Evidence suggests that children who have a positive start to school are likely to engage well and to experience academic and social success.

Transition to school should build on children's prior learning and develop strong links between parents, prior to school services and schools.

The NSW Transition to School Statement will provide useful information to assist parents and schools with this process.

Where can I get copies of the Statement?

Both electronic and printable versions of the Statement are available from our website at www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec. The site also contains other information about the Statement for teachers and schools, parents/carers, and for early childhood educators.

What information do I need to put in the Statement?

There are three sections of the Statement to be filled out by the early childhood educator, including one to be completed by the child with your assistance:

- **Section A** is for you to record the child's personal details.
- **Section B** is the more detailed section which asks you to reflect on the child's qualities and abilities and identify any particular challenges he or she might face in making the transition from early childhood to school education.
- **Section C** provides an opportunity for you to have a structured discussion with the child about his or her feelings and expectations about starting school (using a drawing exercise as a prompt).

How long will this take?

The Statement is to be voluntarily completed by families, together with their early childhood service.

It is not expected that this process will be overly time consuming. It is anticipated that in many cases, this activity will supplement local transition to school processes that services may already be engaged in with children, families and schools.

What is the role of parents or carers in this process?

After you and the child have completed **sections A, B and C** of the Statement, you can then provide it to the parent/carer to complete **sections D, E and F**.

Advice to assist parents/carers with filling in the Statement is available from our website at www.dec.nsw.edu/ecec

- **Section D** is for the parent/carer to record their details and those of their child.
- **Section E** is the more detailed section where the parent/carer is to provide information about their child and their hopes and concerns for their child's transition to school.
- **Section F** is the place for parents/carers to give their consent for the information in the Statement to be passed on to the child's nominated primary school.

Some parents may not wish to have the Statement used in this way and may choose instead to keep the Statement for their own purposes or to give it to the school themselves. This is their choice.

However, you may wish to advise them that the earlier the information can be provided to the school, the more opportunity the school has to use it in their planning for the year ahead.

How do I forward the Statement to the School?

Provided that the parent/carer has indicated which school the child will be attending and given consent for the Statement to be shared, the next step is for you to send a copy of the Statement to the nominated school. You are encouraged to contact the school to identify where best to send the Statement (e.g. kindergarten teacher, school principal, school office).

Ideally, this should be done electronically, that is, by scanning and emailing the document to the school. This will also enable you to save a copy of the Statement for your own records. You may also wish to provide parents with an electronic or hard copy version of the final document.

How does the Statement link to the National Quality Standard?

Collaborating with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and well-being is emphasised under Quality Area 6 of the National Quality Standard. For more information on the National Quality Standard please visit www.acecqa.gov.au

For more information

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Visit our website at www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec