

Voices in transitions

Principal: Our Lady of the Rosary

Transcript of video 1 of 2

This video is available from www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/transition-school/successful-transitions/voices-in-transitions-principals

Andrew Oberthur
Principal

So to ensure a smooth transition into school, the relationships we develop with the parents is critical. The relationships we develop with the local kindergartens is important. It's critical to employ parents and families in the transition to school because the relationship between home and school ensures the success of a child's education.

Certainly the parents and the kindergartens provide us with the most information to make sure the children can have success in the early years classrooms.

In order to ensure continuity of learning from kindergarten through to Prep, we access some of the information off the transition statements, certainly from our local kindergartens. The parents often say at the point of enrolment when they meet with me or a member of my leadership team, we'll have our transition statement ready for you later in the year.

The information we get off the transition statement varies from the academic profile, to the social skills, to the social dynamics of their friendship groups. And it's another piece of the jigsaw puzzle to help us make an informed decision about the best placement for their child for the following year.

Advice I do give to parents about their transition into Prep is read with their children, have their children engage in learning through life skills, so through their everyday engagement with their children, be it at home, be it at the shops.

We also have the child wear their uniform before school, a few days before school. If they have the opportunity to visit school, certainly in the holidays or in the lead-up to their first day back at school, that would be important. We encourage them to come to orientation, which is critical, so that they can see their peers, see the classroom environment. All of those experiences hopefully set the children up for success.

Welcoming children and families

Our approach to transition to school begins from the first contact families have with their school. The families are welcomed and included from the very start. In fact, before they start day one, they would have the opportunity to have a playdate in the school environment whereby families get together in the Prep environment and they have a social setting, they get to know their own network of classmates.

In the first week of school, we have a graduated entry for our Prep

children. In the first four weeks of the school year, the Prep teachers would have their parent information evening whereby they would explain what's going to happen in their child's Prep classroom. So the sooner we can develop a strong relationship between home and school, we set the children up for success both at the early years and later on in their education.