



INDUCTION AND TRANSITION POLICY

AIM

Definition: Education transition – *the process of change that children make from one place or phase of education over time*

As a Montessori school it is our belief that our approach to learning is naturally appealing to children and the strong Montessori accent on leading children to independence will ensure that most children who leave us are physically and socially capable of dealing with new situations such as changing schools. However, we recognise that transition can create emotional stress in young children and their families. Our aim is to ensure that we do all that we can to enable the child to face change in a positive and joyful manner.

We do this by:

Children new to Colourbox:

- Informing parents/carers about Montessori philosophy - through our Handbook, website, information meetings, articles, parent's evenings, Blossom and Facebook.
- Informing parents/carers about the Early Years Foundation Stage and how Montessori teaching delivers this.
- Involving parents/carers in the child's initial settling-in period, whether the child joins us as a baby, toddler or pre-schooler. We do this through Induction meetings during which we ask the parent/carers to share information about their child's health, emotional welfare, likes and dislikes etc. The parent/carer and child can attend for as many settling-in visits as necessary – free of charge.
- Supporting parents and children with separation anxiety
- Key person selected to co-ordinate child/family contact.

Children moving within Colourbox:

- We organise a series of 'settling-in' visits to the new room so that the child can get to know the staff and children.
- We regret that we cannot guarantee a place in a particular room.
- The current and prospective room-leaders/key persons liaise and a Transition Form is completed and forwarded to the new room before the child starts. Completed records, files and Transition Form are transferred to the new room at least a week before the child starts.
- The child's peg photograph and other belongings also move to the new room.
- Update the child's information on Blossom including details of the new room and their specific needs.

Children moving from Colourbox:

- The Nursery Manager/Deputy will visit the child's new school/provider wherever possible.
- The child's new teacher is invited to visit Colourbox and observe and talk to the child, and to see Montessori in practice.
- A report is passed to the child's new reception teacher if at all possible and the paper Learning Journey and report is given to parents.

Children with Special Educational Needs:

- All of the relevant points above will apply. In addition, the Colourbox SENCo will liaise with past/future/additional providers and other involved professionals to ensure continuity of additional support and care as required by the child.
- For children with social, emotional or communication difficulties, or those with learning difficulties, it is better to arrange a number of short, well-spaced visits rather than one or two longer sessions. Introducing them gradually will build their confidence. For children with SEN this will be enhanced by the use of a book of photographs showing the classroom, playground, toilets, cloakroom, as well as the teacher and any other adults who will be involved in their care and education.

What Happens When a Child Leaves Montessori?

Montessori children are usually adaptable. They have learnt to work independently and in groups. Since they've been encouraged to make decisions from an early age, these children are problem-solvers who can make choices and manage their time well. They have also been encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their work freely with others and good communication skills ease the way in new settings.

Research has shown that the best predictor of future success is a sense of self-esteem. Montessori programmes based on self-directed, non-competitive activities, help children develop good self-images and the confidence to face challenges and change with optimism. When they leave Colourbox Montessori School, it is our aim that children are well-prepared and enthusiastic learners who value community and make important contribution to their new schools.