

Transition to a new school

Help the student prepare for change. Create repeated opportunities for preparation. Identify predictable routines.

- ✓ Arrange for the student to visit the school and future classroom(s) on several occasions prior to the first day.
- ✓ Show photos or videos of the school.
- ✓ Prepare a video, Powerpoint, or scrapbook about the school for the student to revisit frequently over the summer holidays.
- ✓ Discuss the student's concerns regarding the move.
- ✓ Use social stories to 'practise' a typical day at the new school.
- ✓ Arrange for the student to meet one or two key staff members who will be involved with them.
- ✓ Visit locations in the school that may be new or different, such as the gymnasium or the bus stop.
- ✓ Arrange a buddy (preferably a person the student knows well) to help the student negotiate his or her way around the school.
- ✓ Discuss the routines of a secondary school – moving between classrooms, using the library, storing possessions in lockers.

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