



The Home Visit Handbook: Building Bridges

E-ACT

OPENING MINDS,
OPENING DOORS

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The Home Visit Handbook: Building Bridges

Purpose of the Visit

- Emphasise the importance of building strong partnerships with parents to support the child's development.
- Help the setting, parents, and child prepare and plan for this significant transition.
- Identify any SEND to allow for early intervention and smooth transition for the child.
- Observe for any potential safeguarding concerns to report back to DSL.
- Staffing for Visits
- Visits should be carried out in pairs:
- One staff member can engage with the child while the other communicates with the parent or carer.
- Ensures personal safety during the visit.

Items to Bring

- School information pack
- Photo album/social story for starting school
- Spare forms
- Home visit checklist
- Mobile phone
- Colouring pencils and paper
- Books or toys for the child

Personal Preparation

- Familiarise yourself with the route, address, and any parking restrictions ahead of time.
- Share your visiting schedule with another staff member.
- Contact the school or designated colleague once all visits are completed.
- Be mindful of pets or additional adults in the home.
- Choose a seat near an exit, and if you feel uncomfortable at any point, politely excuse yourself and leave.

Professional Considerations

- Refrain from commenting on the home environment to avoid implying judgment.
- Show respect and understanding for cultural differences.
- Follow appropriate customs, such as removing shoes or dressing modestly, as needed.
- Be conscious of time limitations for both staff and families.



Home visit template for entering Nursery or Reception

Discussed	Tick	Comment	Action if required (when and who?)
The Child			
Child registration			
Getting to know you booklet			
Pupil Premium			
Attended Nursery			
Medical Needs			
Know the difference between right and wrong			
PCHR check			
Dental check			
Other			

Home visit template for entering Nursery or Reception

Discussed	Tick	Comment	Action if required (when and who?)
The Setting			
Setting information/photo booklet			
Routines			
Essential items			
Behaviour policy			
Other policies			
Confidentiality			
Confidentiality			

Permission Slips			
Information sharing			
Trips and outings			
Trips and outings			
Computer use			
Medicines			
Confidentiality			
Other			

Home visit template for entering Nursery or Reception

Discussed	Tick	Comment	Action if required (when and who?)
The Setting			
Arrivals and departures			
School ready definition			
Settling in routine/schedule			
Settling in diary			
Visit and start date schedule			
Other			

Discussed	Tick	Comment	Action if required (when and who?)
SEND			
Toilet trained			
Speech and language			
Interaction with adults			
Any professional's involved? OT, SALT etc			
Hearing check			
Vision check			

Discussed	Tick	Comment	Action if required (when and who?)
Safeguarding			
Attendance focus			
Who lives at home with the child?			
Who has parental responsibility?			
Are there a court orders or custody arrangements we need to be aware of?			
Is there anyone who is not allowed contact?			
Has the child ever had involvement with social care or other support services?			
Are there any safeguarding concerns or risks we should be aware of?			
What helps your child feel safe and settled?			
Any behaviours/ triggers we need to be aware of?			
Are there any concerns noticed about the home environment?			
Are there any concerns noticed with the interactions between child and parents/others in the home?			
Are there any concerns noticed with the interactions between other people within the home?			

Reflect on Research

Guidance for Practitioners: The Ofsted report “Are you ready?” provides insights into good practices for ensuring that disadvantaged children are prepared to start school, including the role of home visits in supporting school readiness.

Government Recommendations: The Education Committee’s report underscores the importance of supporting a strong home learning environment, citing evidence that parental engagement significantly influences children’s cognitive development before school.

Addressing Variations in School Readiness: Research published in Child Indicators Research identifies that home visit family support and other interventions can help address local variations in children’s school readiness across England.

Starting Reception: Which skills should children know before starting reception? This practical guide, written by early years education experts, helps you prepare parents to prepare child for school.

EYFS: How to Get Home Visits Right



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