

Information Sheet

Suggestions for children with SEND returning to a setting following isolation.



Prior to children returning to preschool - you may consider sending out a questionnaire to parents/carers requesting information about their child. You could also use this opportunity to check that the information you have on file is up-to-date. This could be beneficial for all children.

Questionnaires could include:

- Medication - this is really important: Is their medication still in use - Has it changed - Is it still in date and has it been stored as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Any changes in living arrangements - including pets, phone numbers, new siblings, etc.
- Any changes with their communication, eating, sleeping, behaviour, etc.
- Have any of their self-care needs changed - including toilet training.
- Is there anything particular that their child has enjoyed during isolation.
- SEND Update - Are there any updates or changes in relating to their child's SEND, including any test results, letters or reports received or any formal diagnoses.
- Bereavements - Has there been any bereavements within the family or close friends that could be affecting their child.
- Anything else - You could have a final part asking if there is anything else the setting should be aware of before their child returns to preschool.

You may consider asking a parents/carer to sign and date the questionnaire to confirm the information is accurate.

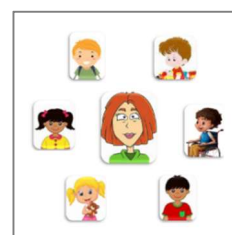
Please remember to update STLS with any relevant changes.

Remember:

- When the children return remember to follow your setting's settling-in guidance - it will probably feel like their first day again.
- Remember to provide your setting's settling in activities - make them accessible.
- Check that all your visuals are ready and close by (not in a cupboard).
- Have the child's favourite activities available - maybe have photos of these activities on a choice card to support making choices.
- Prepare the outside area so it is ready to use.



- Suggest bringing in a comfort object.
- Have photographs of family, friends and pets to look at.
- Put a time limit on parents/carers staying when bringing their child to the setting, as children often get more distressed if they see parents lingering anxiously.
- Make non-porous sensory activities available, e.g. dry pasta with pouring resources.
- Think about the layout of the room(s).
- Keep parents updated - maybe have daily verbal updates on settling-in progress.
- Display information to remind parents/carers regarding social distancing when dropping off or collecting their children - remember social distancing.
- You will probably need to reassess their development levels, as some children may have regressed, or progressed, in a particular area of need.
- Clearly identify members of staff - maybe have individual photos of each keyperson along with their key children.
- Will the child's keyperson be there when the child returns?



- Remember to follow government guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

For example - see website for all up-to-date guidance:

- Assessing risks - you may need to conduct a SEND Risk Assessment before the children return during this coronavirus outbreak.
- Follow Social Distancing guidelines - staff should implement the recommended measures as far as they are able, while ensuring children are kept safe and well cared for. Remember social distancing when talking to parents too.
- Limit the number of parents who enter the setting at one time.
- Follow Washing Hands guidance and ensure help is available for children and young people who have difficulty washing their hands.
- Clean equipment, toys and surfaces and disinfect more frequently.
- Continue to check for updates, regularly.



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