

Supporting Effective Transitions in Early Years

S was referred to Solihull Early Years Team around the Child (EY TAC) panel in June 2022 when she was 2 years old. The referral, through S's health visitor, resulted in support from R an Early Years Practitioner in the Early Years Team. S was not attending a setting and parents (H and M) and her health visitor had concerns about speech and language, play and interaction. Speech and language therapy was also requested by the community nursery nurse in the health visiting team. R liaised with the referrer and contacted the family to arrange a visit to the home. Referral to EY TAC is via health and education professionals for health and education support.

When asked what parents hoped for from R's support they said....

We hoped for support and ideas on how best to help S with her learning barriers. For S we wanted her to find ways of communicating.

During July and August R visited every fortnight to play alongside S and her parents. R found out what interested S and suggested play activities to help develop S's play, language and self-care skills. R also introduced the family to simple Makaton signs to aid communication.

In September R supported S to transition into FS Nursery. This involved sharing strategies that had been successful in the home, to share S's favourite activities and help them to prepare resources to support continuity. R was able to meet with the Key Person and to join S on her first session in Nursery. R continued to support in both home and setting during the Autumn term for transition time to model and develop strategies and help the setting and home environments support S's needs. R also helped with further referrals.

S's family shared their views on R's support during this time....

R was absolutely amazing with S who finds it difficult to sit for long and stay engaged. R always listened to our concerns and gave us lots of tips on what we can do to help S. By following R's strategies, we are now able to interact with S better and understand her needs.

Once a child is in a setting the Early Years Team support is from an Early Years Lead Practitioner in the Area SENCo role (with parents' permission). This is support for the setting, and the SENCo, to best meet the needs of the children in their care rather than directly working with a child. R's support finished in December 2022 after helping S with shared attention and making choices, to support her to be more active in her learning, rules and turn-taking. S was helped to expand her play choices and to follow routines with visual clues. She is communicating more and sharing attention with adults. Parents are seeking their own Makaton training to build on this.

FS Nursery also shared their evaluation of R's support. The setting will continue to seek support from S who is the Area SENCo for the nursery. They said..

She showed us different strategies and ideas to use which help the child settle initially. R provided a good link between home and nursery as she was working with both.

Support for families and settings:

Support strategies used by R

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Children-and-family-support/localoffer/early-years-support> and <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/send/strategies/>