

How well do children adjust to primary school?

The vast majority of five year olds are positive about school

Most children look forward to going to school and say good things about school.

Children start school with different skills and capacities.

Some groups of children face greater challenges when starting school

Boys

Children with disabilities and special educational needs

Children from disadvantaged backgrounds



These groups are more likely to experience challenges

Poorer academic skills

Early vocabulary, literacy and numeracy abilities

Poorer socio-emotional skills

Ability to concentrate in class, communicate needs and take turns/share with other children

More negative attitudes towards school

Complain or are upset about going to school

Poorer quality of relationships with teachers

Less close and more conflictual

What could help children to adjust?

TRANSFER DOCUMENTATION



Transfer information about a child's strengths and needs from early years practitioners to primary school teachers

URBAN DEIS SCHOOLS

Significant skills gap between urban DEIS and non-DEIS schools

More resources needed to target disadvantaged children in urban areas



POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Build positive student-teacher relationships

Support teachers to implement positive behaviour management



MORE PLAY-BASED ACTIVITIES

to enhance learning and engagement

Promote continued use in senior infants

Promote increased use among younger children in multi-grade classes



PROMOTE HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Reading and creative play help children prepare for school life