

Bookbug Session: Nursery to Primary 1 transition

We have created a Bookbug Session based on the transition from nursery into Primary 1, featuring carefully selected songs, rhymes and a picture book that focuses on the health and wellbeing of children and on adapting to change and routine.

The session plan makes reference to the Curriculum for Excellence, including experiences and outcomes to help early years staff use the songs, rhymes and story in your setting, plan transitional activities and prompt conversations with the children and their families.

1. Introduction song

[The Hello Song](#)

Benefits

Familiar start – lets everyone know a Bookbug session has started.

Tips

Smile and use names if you know them. You can also use Makaton to support [The Hello Song](#).

2. Familiar song

[Zoom, Zoom, Zoom](#)

Benefits

Lots of opportunities for movement and participation, crouching, swaying, jumping. Incorporates numeracy skills and counting down (5, 4, 3, 2, 1).

HWB 0-07a MNU 0-03a

Tips

Use finger play to help children count down from five. Build up anticipation before blasting off. This song can also be linked to the children about to embark on a new journey of their own.

3. Familiar rhyme

[Five Fat Peas](#)

Benefits

Finger play opportunities, moving fingers independently of one another, great for developing fine manipulative skills.

HWB 0-21a HWB 0-29a

Tips

Build up anticipation and pause before the pod goes pop to support attention and listening skills. This rhyme is a great way to spark discussions around lunch time routines in school.

4. Song with actions

Here We Go on Our Ponies

Benefits

Building on social skills and confidence, encouraging the children to interact with each other.

EXA 0-12a HWB 0-044a HWB 0-045b

Tips

Encourage the children to gallop around the room and say hello to each other when they stop. Introduce days of the week, or weather into the song: 'Stop a moment just to say... How do you do this Wednesday... This sunny day', etc.).

5. Active rhyme

Pirate, Pirate, Dressed in Blue

Benefits

Encourages the children to follow instructions, supports listening skills and language development.

Tips

Use your voice and body together to emphasise the words and their meaning. For 'Stand to attention!' you may want to say this fast and stiffen your body. For 'Stand at ease!' you can extend the word and relax your body. This rhyme can be used to support conversations around uniforms.

6. Transition song

I wonder what's in my bag today?

Benefits

Builds anticipation and keeps the children's attention.

Tips

Sign the key words if you know them. Sing to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush: 'I wonder what's in my bag today, bag today, bag today. I wonder what's in my bag today, come and take a look... at Bookbug's favourite book!'

7. Book

Never Take a Bear to School by Mark Sperring and Britta Teckentrup

Benefits

Through gentle humour, this book touches on the worries that children might feel moving on to school and highlights all the fun things that can happen during their school day. The bear character in the book can represent a 'comforter' a child may

have and rely on, but can also represent the caregiver without drawing on stereotypes or traditional family structures.

HWB 0-01a HWB 0-07a LIT 0-01b LIT 0-11b

Tips

Read the book aloud before your session. Remember to think about how you use your voice and face to add excitement, anticipation and joy. Give the children opportunities to join in through illustration observations and effective questioning.

8. Active song

Thumbkin Likes to Dance

Benefits

A great song to develop fine motor skills, moving fingers independently.

HWB 0-21a HWB 0-22a HWB 0-045b

Tips

Open up opportunities for the children to go into pairs and do finger play together, helping to build up social skills and friendships.

9. Lullaby/calming song

The Rainbow Song (with Makaton)

Benefits

Calming song to help wind down the session. Focus on colours.

EXA 0-04a

Tips

Using Makaton with this song can help make your session more inclusive, and enhance communication and language skills.

10. Final song

The Goodbye Song

Benefits

Tells everyone the session is coming to an end.

Tips

Smile, wave and use the children's names again.

Permissions

Please read our guide on [permission to read books aloud online](#).