

# Preparing for our transition to school



**Starting school**  
April 2021



Starting school

# At Busy Bees it is our shared vision **to give all children the best start in life.**

Attending a Busy Bees pre-school supports children to become confident individuals that are interested to learn as they continue to grow and progress. In addition to the early year's curriculum, Busy Bees centres provide the children with exciting opportunities that further promotes their learning, development and well-being.

These exciting learning opportunities are supported by Busy Bees' unique learning and development programme Unleashing Potential (UP); designed to support educators in nurturing children and ensuring they have fundamental skills and are socially ready and emotionally ready for school. Busy Bees will work with your child to develop their skills around independence and support them fully with their transition to school.

Starting school is one of the most important transitions in your child's life and Busy Bees have the experience and knowledge gained through working with teachers and schools to ensure your child is prepared.





# Supporting you and your child

## What is UP?

UP is an innovative, exciting, flexible early years learning programme, unique to Busy Bees for children aged 0-5. It has been designed with the ambition to guide, encourage and direct each individual to develop a lifelong love of learning and develop skills and attributes to ensure a better start in life.



The learning programme is called UP; meaning 'Unleashing Potential'. The potential of every child, parent and educator who uses our settings. UP is an intuitive digital programme used both in our settings and for you to use to support your child's learning at home.

UP is revolutionary, the first of its kind and through a digital app provides essential guidance, resources and information on how to deliver effective learning experiences for children.

UP covers every aspect of a child's development and equips them with the essential skills and knowledge to ensure they are well prepared for school.

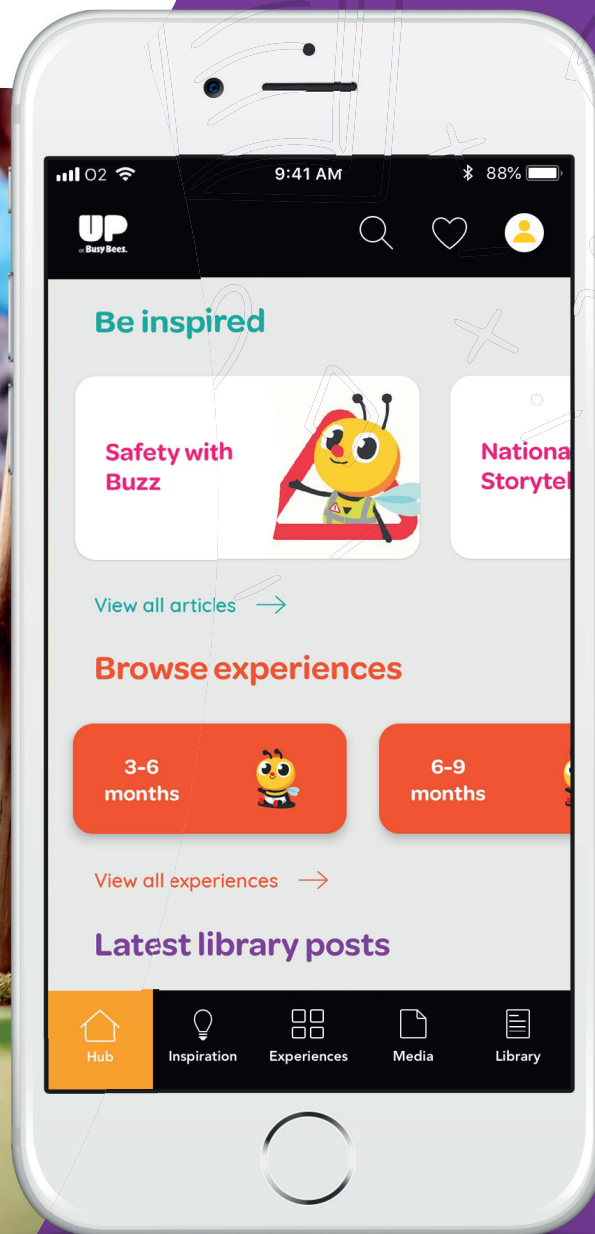
## What's included?

Our educators can access:

- An extensive collection of age appropriate experiences to support children's learning within all areas of development
- Exclusive learning programmes such as Safety with Buzz, Steps to Independence and UP and Active with Buzz
- A library of information to support educator's professional development, written by our team of experts and based on extensive research.

On the parent app you will find...

- Quick and easy ideas of how to support your child's development in everyday activities such as meal times or getting ready for bed
- An extensive collection of age appropriate activities that you can do with your child to support their learning. You will find experiences for many different situations, for example in the bath, at the park or in the woods.
- Activities you can provide to support your child's individual interests, promoting their development at the same time
- A library of information covering many common parental queries and concerns from potty training to healthy eating, written by our team of experts and based on extensive research
- Songs to share with your child. Our top 50 songs have been recorded exclusively for Busy Bees and are available for you to listen to through the app.





## Starting school

# Discover the benefits of a **Busy Bees Pre-School**

A Busy Bees Pre-School is a well-designed classroom meeting the needs of children aged from 3 years until they move on to school.

Our educators involve the children to work together in a productive environment with quality resources where they are constructively engaged. It is the role of the educators to observe, facilitate and challenge the children and the environment supports this. The pre-school surroundings help the children to interact, learn, and promote good values, for example walking feet indoors and showing respect for the resources and equipment by using and looking after them properly.

A Busy Bees Pre-School will continue with the minimum ratio of 1 adult to 8 children until your child starts school. This will ensure they have more focused support and attention.

The named Key Person has special responsibilities for working with a group of children ensuring they are reassured to feel safe and cared in order to thrive and they establish positive relationships with their parents in order to always work in partnership together.

The Key Persons access regular and on-going training, largely through the Busy Bees Education and Training, to support them in their roles as Early Years educators to ensure they continuously meet the needs of each and every child in their care.

When children leave Busy Bees Pre-Schools, they do so as confident and independent individuals that are ready for the next stage in their learning. For example, they are able to use the toilet independently, dress themselves and have an understanding of expected behaviour.

They can share and take turns, are able to sit still for short periods of time and are able to communicate needs and listen to others, learn actively and think critically.

These essential skills will help your child to feel confident and self assured as they embark of the next exciting part of their story.







## Seamless Transitions

Children's lives today are so much busier than ever before. Starting nursery for the first time and then progressing through the base rooms as a child grows and develops before moving onto school are often considered as a normal part of the lives of children.

However, transitions are milestones for children and have a definite impact on their learning, development and well being. These milestones mark exciting change for children along with being introduced to new experiences and opportunities.

For some children, transitions can bring uncertainty because their environment is not the same. Expectations, routines and rules are different and faces are not yet familiar. Ensuring transitions are seamless is essential for every child and should not be seen as a single event that just 'happens'.

Transitions should be viewed as a process rather than an event that involves children, practitioners and parents together. Transitions can be better described as an ongoing journey rather than a destination.

## What is the Transition Document?

The Transition Document is a summative record that is completed using information collected during your child's time at nursery.

You, your child and your child's Key Person will each contribute to this, with the aim of providing a holistic picture of your child; reflecting all of their unique and individual qualities along with an overview of their learning and development.

This document is supported by a copy of their most recent 'Development Summary' and both are to be shared with their new Teacher at school.

The information in the document helps to ensure your child settles as well as they possibly can by sharing detailed information from the nursery and yourself as parents to support their transition.

Your child's Key Person will arrange a suitable time for this document to be completed before your child leaves nursery to start school.



# Ideas for parents to help support school transition

As well as the amazing activities your child's Key Person will be carrying out in nursery; there are lots of ways that you can help your child prepare for their school transition at home. Below are a few ideas to help:

- Talk with your child about starting school. Make the most of 'special' times where it is just you and your child such as at bath time, on the way to nursery or when waiting for a sibling to finish a club for example as well at other times like at the table when the family are together eating or when you are out with friends

Ask them what they think it will be like? What are they most looking forward to? Is there anything they're unsure or worried about?

- Look at the school's brochure, prospectus or website together and talk about the pictures
- Collect and look through photos of you and other family members at school and talk about the happy and positive memories from your own school days
- Where possible visit the school with your child before they start. As well as the formal open days, try to attend fetes, plays and other events
- If your child seems anxious about school, try focusing on the things they'll like best. For example, it could be the sandpit, playhouse or new friends
- Talk to your child's Key Person in pre-school who will be able to support you to find out the names of the other children starting the same school and put you in touch with their parents. You could arrange play dates together for the children as well as creating a support network for yourselves
- Practice the school morning routine as much as possible, including getting dressed and eating a good breakfast in time to leave. It's a great idea to practice the school run too, so that you're both prepared for what to expect on the journey.

If your child has a particular worry such as not liking the food or feeling ill, talk about these concerns with them and with their Teacher. Provide reassurance by discussing what to do and who to tell in these situations

If your child has a comforter, try to get them used to being without it during the day. Talk to the Teacher to find out if your child is allowed to bring their comforter to begin with and leave it in a tray or on their peg

If your child is going to a before or after school club talk this through with them. If the childcare arrangement is new, try a settling-in period for this before the school term starts. Try putting together a visual time table of the week to help your child know what to expect

Read books together about starting school. We have included a list of books below to help with the transition to school:

- I am too Absolutely Small for School (Charlie and Lola) by Lauren Child
- Starting School by Janet and Allen Ahlberg
- Topsy and Tim Start School by Jean and Gareth Adamson
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Go to School by Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds
- Come to School too, Blue Kangaroo! by Emma Chichester Clark
- Going to School Sticker Book and Starting School Sticker Book - Usborne
- Sharing is Caring by DK
- Please and Thank You by DK
- Pens Special: Starting School by Alexa Tewkesbury

It's natural to feel nervous about your child starting school but they can easily pick up on your emotions. Try to be relaxed and positive, rather than showing your own nerves. Try not to bombard your child with talk about school. Be relaxed and treat it in a matter-of-fact way that will help to comfort an anxious child, rather than focusing on the "big change ahead" and lots of reference to "big school". Don't 'over sell' school, as your little one may feel let down or mistrustful if it doesn't live up to expectations!





## Starting school

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of your child starting school, just speak to your child's Key Person or Centre Director who will be delighted to help and support you.

Don't forget to collect your 'Journey to School' tracker sheet from nursery or print from our website to help you recognise the goals your child has achieved.

**Book a visit online**  
**[busybeeschildcare.co.uk](https://busybeeschildcare.co.uk)**



**Care. Quality. Service. Value.**