

Five Principles for Effective Infant Transitions to Early Childhood Education and Care

1

Communicate honestly

Early transitions may be **emotionally charged**. Parents need to be informed about how their infant is doing – **even when things are difficult**.



You can tell families the hard truths

This may include **infant's crying or other emotional displays of grief**, such as a lack of interest or rejection of experiences throughout the day.



Make time to connect



Touch



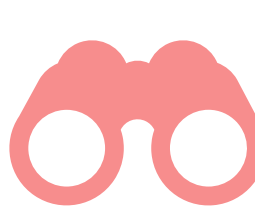
Talk



Play



Sound



Explore

2

Quick distractions don't help babies feel settled.

3

Make space for grief

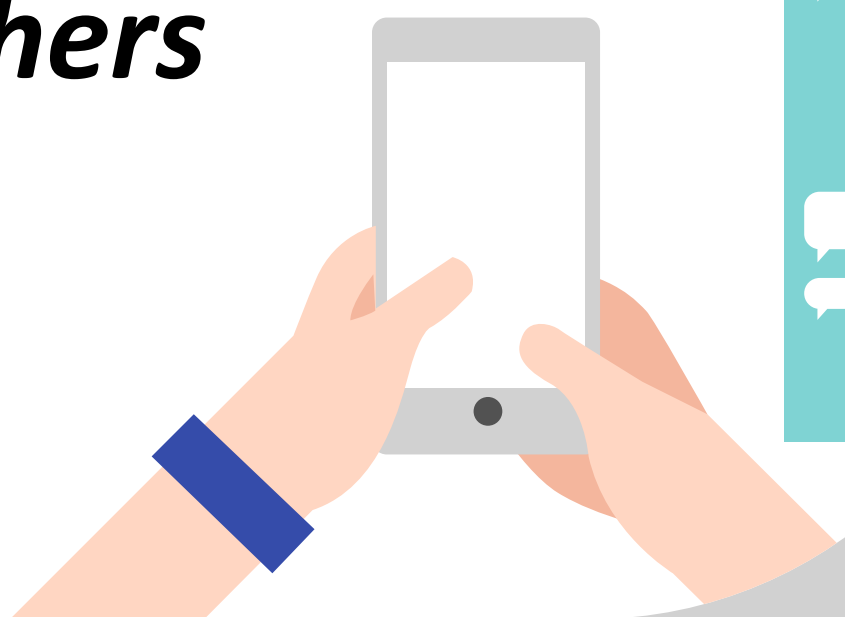
Early transitions sometimes have **sad moments** for infants. You can be with them in their sadness by **comforting them and acknowledging their feelings**.



4

Treat all educators as key teachers

All educators in the infant room can start to build connections with the infant and family – **key teachers may not be able to stay with the infant for all of every day**.



5

Early transitions affect everyone

It's important to recognise that transitions are emotional and effortful for **everyone involved – families, infants and educators**.



Research suggests that educators are most effective when they are able to:

Take time out for themselves; communicate with parents regularly; respond to infant rhythms; stay up to date with current research.



Rest & Recharge



Plan & Communicate



Follow Routines



Current Research



Expectations and emotions concerning infant transitions to ECEC: international dialogues with parents and teachers

E. J. White, N. Rutanen, H. Marwick, K. Souza Amorim, E. Karagiannidou & L. K. M. Herold (2020) Expectations and emotions concerning infant transitions to ECEC: international dialogues with parents and teachers, *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*, 28:3, 363-374, DOI: 10.1080/1350293X.2020.1755495