

Mo Scéal: Moving from Preschool to Primary

Information for teachers

Mo Scéal reports provide information about a child's strengths, interests and challenges as he/she makes the transition from preschool to primary school.

Mo Scéal has four sections

- **Section 1: Practitioner** provides information on the child's learning and development using the four themes of *Aistear* – Well-being, Identity and Belonging, Communicating and Exploring and Thinking.
- **Section 2: Parent/Guardian** provides information that parents/guardians may like to share with their child's new school.
- **Section 3: Child** provides an opportunity for the child to share something personal with his/her, new school. This is a really important section as it includes the voice of the child.
- **Section 4: Parent/Guardian Consent** asks for parents'/guardians' permission to share a copy of the child's report with the primary school.

The combined information from the practitioner, parent and child will help you to learn about the child's learning and experiences from home and from preschool. This will be very useful, particularly in the initial weeks of junior infants. Armed with this information, you might think about ways to provide similar experiences in your classroom. The reports can also support you in planning for the child to learn in a way that best suits him/her, can help you to group children and to differentiate learning opportunities. Very importantly, the reports will give you ideas for topics and projects linked to children's interests to explore during the year.

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The information in *Mo Scéal* describes

- learning experiences the child enjoys such as playing collaboratively, exploring the outside environment, enjoying the construction area or independently choosing books in the reading corner.
- the child's emergent interests. The child may have an interest in dinosaurs, agriculture, rockets, families, transport, gardening!
- the child's positive learning dispositions such as curiosity, resilience, perseverance and independence.
- things the child finds challenging, avoids or has difficulty with like communication delays/difficulties, issues with transition or difficulties taking turns.

Mo Scéal provides information in writing about a child's learning and development prior to starting junior infants. The intention is that the information in *Mo Scéal* will support the work teachers do in preparing to welcome the children into junior infants, and in planning for their learning and development over the school year. The reports are also intended as a focus point for teachers in talking with parents and guardians, and provide an opportunity to contact the preschool practitioner. And of course, *Mo Scéal* provides ideas to develop conversations with children about their learning and experiences at home and in preschool.