

# Starting Reception

## Case study: Embedding the Starting Reception Definition in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Local Authority has taken a strategic, multi-agency approach to embedding the *Starting Reception* definition across the county. Their aim is to ensure that every family understands the key skills children need when beginning Reception year at school, and that this messaging reaches families well before their primary school place is confirmed.

### Approach

To ensure consistent communication, the Local Authority has implemented a series of coordinated actions:

- **Direct distribution to families:** sending bundles of printed copies of the booklet to schools for distribution to all families in transition/welcome packs.
- **Engagement with early years settings:** Hard copies sent to every nursery/PVI early years setting, enabling staff to share the definition with parents and direct them to the Starting Reception website.
- **School leadership briefings:** Headteachers briefed and encouraged to embed the definition into welcome packs, transition visits, and stay-and-play sessions, with a focus on aligning activities to specific school-readiness skills.
- **Strengthening transition partnerships:** The Local Authority facilitated discussions between schools and feeder nurseries to explore how each could support the development of key skills and reinforce shared expectations.
- **Parent engagement sessions:** Face-to-face Starting Reception sessions were delivered for parents, with targeted outreach to families not accessing early years provision, ensuring they did not miss important messaging.
- **Expanding and enhancing parent engagement sessions:** Delivery to begin earlier and more sessions being offered both online and face-to-face, initially in spring to families not accessing early years provision and then universally in the summer term to all families of children starting school.

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## Next Steps:

### Measuring Impact

Lincolnshire is considering how best to measure the effectiveness of this coordinated approach including through the analysis of Reception on entry data compared to GLD and tracking improvements in Good Level of Development (GLD) data. They are also exploring the possibility of a 'School Readiness' survey for educators and parents.

### Collaboration with Health Visiting teams

Health Visitors now to introduce the Starting Reception website to all families during the 2-year check, ensuring early and universal exposure to the guidance.

### Integration into admissions processes

The admissions team to add clear signposting to the Starting Reception website in school offer emails to parents in Spring.