

Home Visits for New Students to our School

Treassa O'Meara
Holy Family School



What's involved

- Teacher arranges a time to visit the home of the new student.
- Two staff members visit the home for approximately half an hour.
- A Home Visit Pack is brought to the family.



What's in the Home Visit Pack

- Information about the child questionnaire
- My Starting School Booklet
- 'Our School' booklet
- Examples of activities/tasks that the child may use in school
- Examples of PECs symbols and information about how to use them.
- Tips for starting school
- Uniform list
- Enrolment forms including permission forms.

Information about the Child Questionnaire

- Personal Information
- Medical History
- Self Help Skills
- Communication Skills
- Interests
- Community participation
- Emotional Development

My Starting School Book

My name is

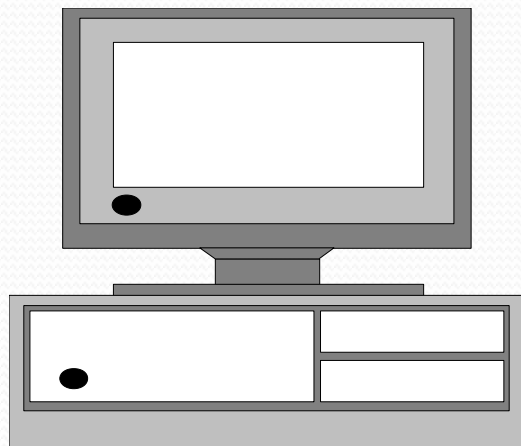
Insert Photo



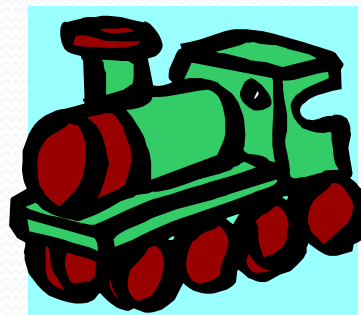
In my house lives...

(names of family members as recognised
by your child eg mummy - "mama")

[photographs and names]



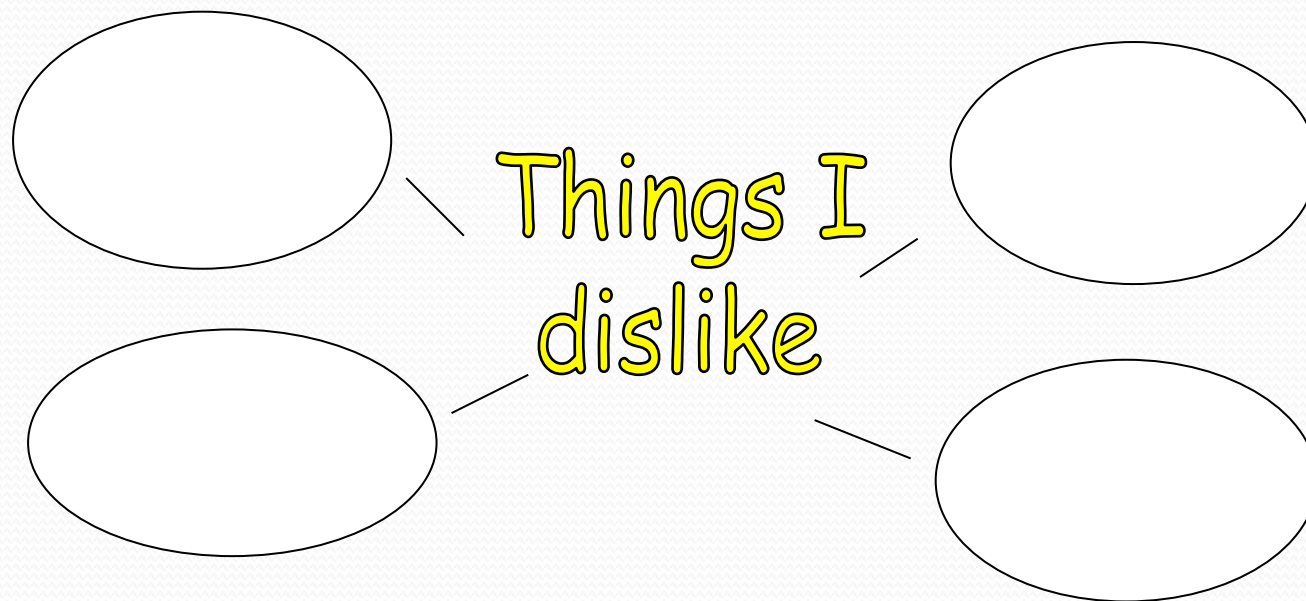
My favourite
things are...



Eg Thomas the
Tank Engine
video
farm book
my tractor
playing hide and
seek

[photographs]

These might include sensitivity to sounds, light, smell, colour, clothing, sleeping, eating, animals



These might include certain social settings, community situations eg shopping centres, shops, waiting, travelling



I make my needs known by...

Looking ☐

Pointing ☐

Requesting ☐

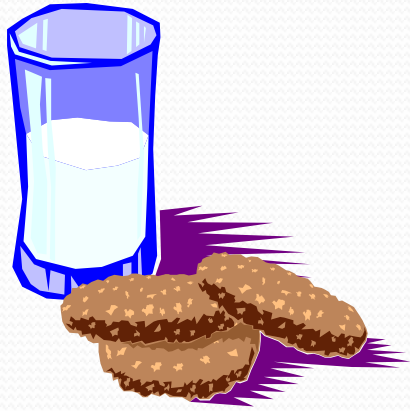
Touching ☐

Own sounds ☐

Body movements ☐

Doing things for myself ☐

(Please tick)



At break time I
drink...

milk

☐

water

☐

juice

☐

other

☐

I use a

lidded cup

☐

trainer beaker

☐

tumbler

☐

straw

☐

other

☐

please tick

My favourite snacks are...

At dinner time I eat...

puree foods ☐

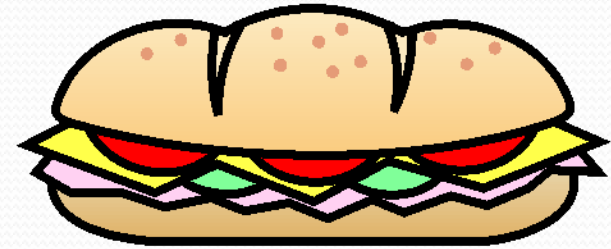
mashed foods ☐

semi-solids ☐

solids ☐

please tick

My favourite foods are...



I dislike...

I use a knife ☐

fork ☐

spoon ☐

fingers ☐

adult help ☐

please tick

I wear...

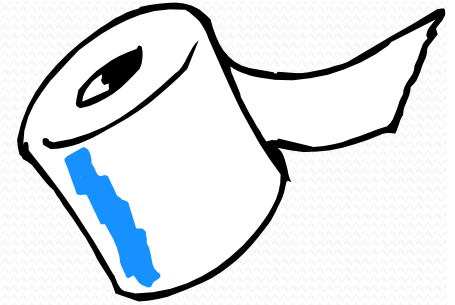
pull-ups

☐

pants

☐

pampers

☐

I use the toilet

☐

I use the potty

☐

I go at routine times

☐

I will indicate

by gesture

☐

by request

☐

I go independently

☐

I go with help

☐

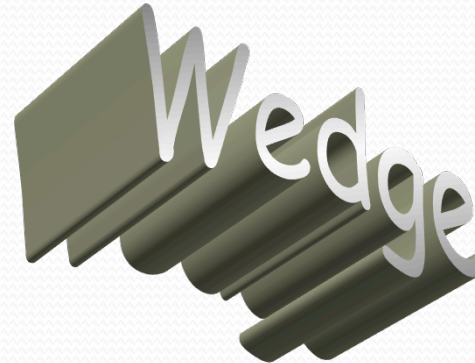
(please tick)



Equipment used to help me

Please underline and add details as necessary

Lecky chair



Bearbag

buggy

Other

Nothing

Other

What do I need

on my first day?

Spare clothes

Toilet bag

Extra pants

Face cloth /Sponge

Nappies

Comforter

Brush/Comb

Medicine

break money

Toothbrush and paste



Our School Booklet

The booklet contains:

- Photos of key staff
- Photos of school environs
- Photos of school transport

Welcome to
Our school



Holy Family School



My new teacher.



My new classroom assistant.



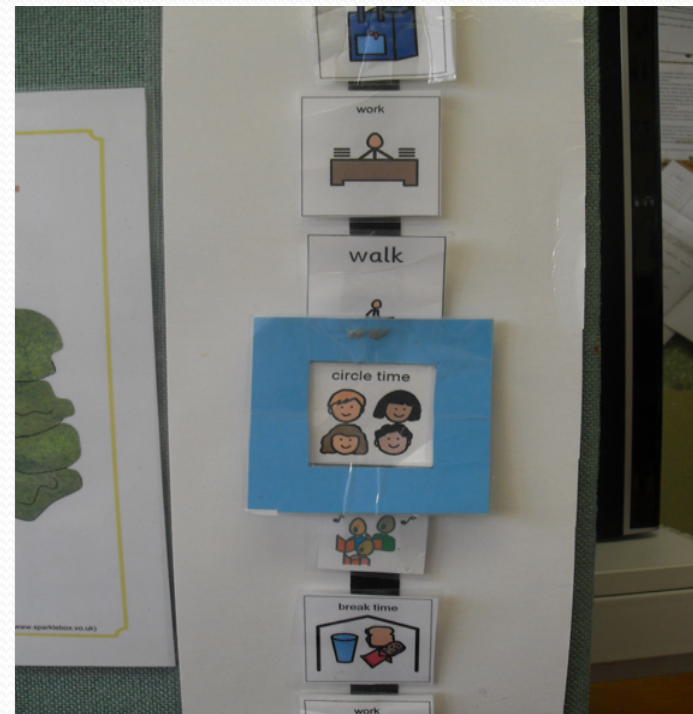
My new classroom
assistant.



My new classroom



These are the
boxes where I will
put my coat and



Here are the
schedules where I
will find out what
to do next.



This is where I will
have assembly.



This is where I will
eat.



This is where I will
work on my own.



This is the
computer in my
classroom



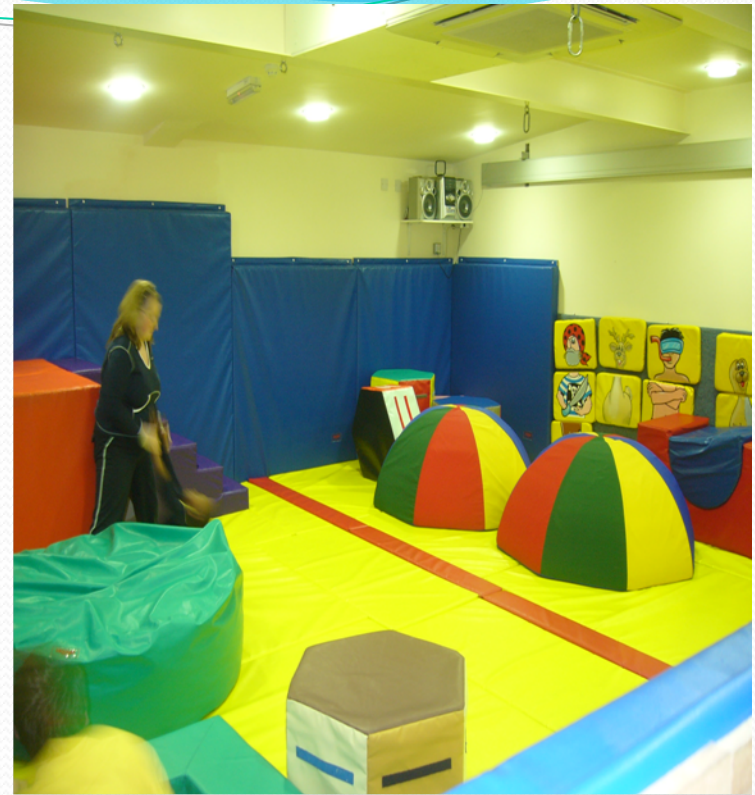
This is the toilet.



This is where I can
play outside.



This is where I can
swing.



This is the sensory
room.



I will have PE in
this Hall.



Eamon

My PE teacher.



Ann and Pauline

Our nurses.

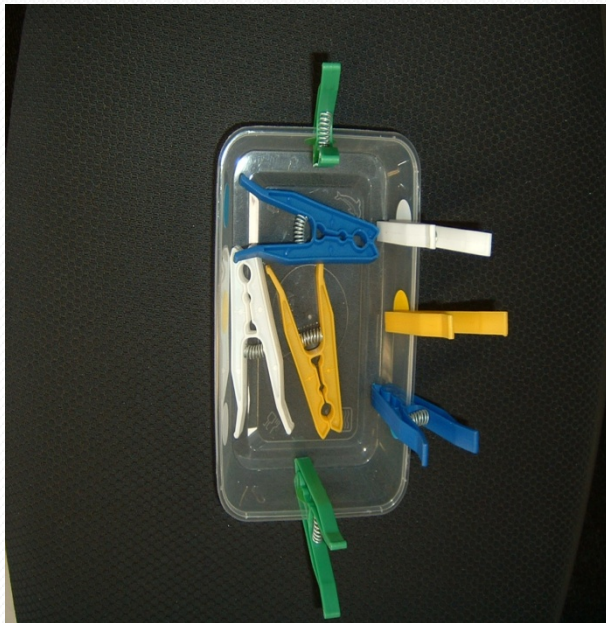


Cathy

Our Housekeeper.

Examples of Structured Activities / Tasks

Activity: Pegs and Stickers



Activity: Character match.



Activity: Table - Setting



Activity: making patterns with Linkets

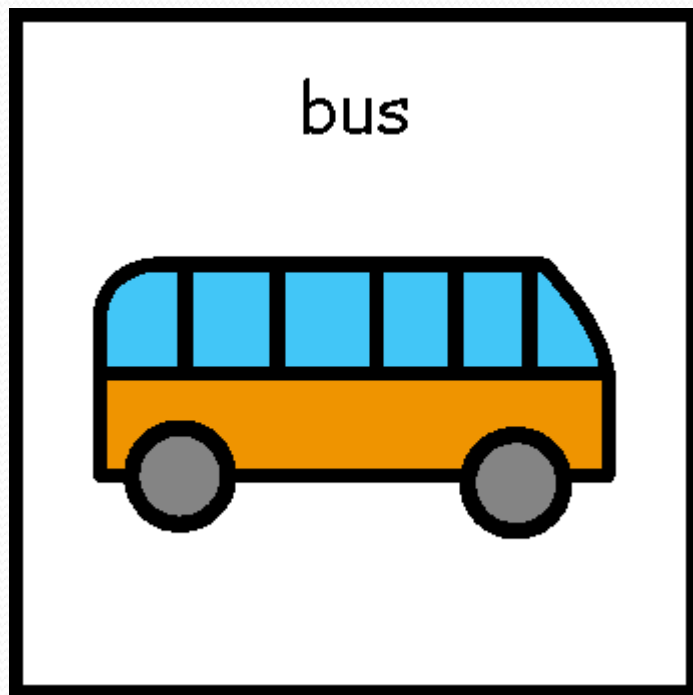




The Super Symbols

- A set of symbols which might be used by parent and teacher are included in the pack.
- Again an explanation of each symbol and how to use it is printed on the back of each symbol.

Visual Symbols



Bus

This symbol is used to show your child how they are getting to a destination and to prepare them for the journey ahead. Show the child the symbol, point to the bus, if possible, and say, "bus". Thus indicating that its time to get on the bus.

Visual Symbols



Toilet

This symbol is used to help your child understand your verbal instruction. Show the child the card and say “toilet” then lead them to the toilet. Gradually your child will begin to associate this symbol with the toilet and hopefully will begin to independently go to the correct place when shown the symbol

Visual Symbols



No

The universal No symbol is used to communicate to your child that behaviour is not acceptable or when they want something that they can't have. For example if your child is constantly turning the lights on and off, place the No symbol over the switch and when your child approaches the switch point to the symbol and say "No". Try then to distract your child with another activity or toy. This process may need to be repeated several times.



What are the benefits

- Teacher meets the child.
- Anxious parents meet their child's teacher
- Parents feel secure in their own home and are more willing to discuss sensitive issues like behaviour problems.
- Enrolment forms, including all permission forms are brought to the home and can be explained if necessary.
- A start date is agreed and travel arrangements for the first few days is agreed.

Parent testimonials – home visits

- **“I found the Home Visit very beneficial and my concerns about my child starting school were addressed”**
- **Being able to meet the teacher first – it was reassuring for us all”**
- **“Lovely to meet the teachers. They were very helpful, answered all my questions”.**
- **“It was great to meet and get to know the people who were going to look after my son. They were very reassuring about all aspects of my son’s care”.**
- **“during the home visit my son got to see the person who was going to teach him and I knew he would recognise them when he went to school”.**
- **“Following the visit I felt more comfortable contacting the school if I needed to”.**