

Dear SENCO

As we start to think about planning for transition back to school we have put together a selection of **Transition Top Tips** to assist Autistic pupils at this time. For some children we may be thinking about September, for others they may start back during the summer term. Regardless of when they start back each autistic child/YP will need a flexible individualised approach developed with parents and pupils to ease this transition as smoothly as possible.

Different pupils will have had different experiences during the Covid - 19 period. Our children/YP will be experiencing **anxiety** whatever their feelings are regarding returning to school. It is important to plan on how to tackle this through preparation, ensuring school is **predictable and desirable**. Reconnecting with familiar staff will be vital for our children/YP, you may want to consider how these links can continue even if the child/YP is in a different class.

Some pupils may have enjoyed the time at home due to the predictability and familiarity. Ensure that predictable visual structures that were in school previously are maintained and activities are low demand and of interest to the child/YP.

We have used the **SCERTS** framework to outline appropriate tips for the children/YP you work with. SCERTS stands for Social Communication Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support Strategies.

Children and Young people are grouped into three levels as follows:

**Social Partner**: 'before words', or using very few words, signs or symbols

**Language Partner**: 'emerging language', 100 symbols, words, phrases, signs  
Up to 20 word combinations

**Conversational Partner**: 'chatty kids', Putting sentences together  
More than 20 word combinations

Please contact your allocated Autism Advisory Teacher if you would like more support.

Best Wishes

Barnet Autism Advisory Team