

## **Autism and Advisory Intervention Service (AAIS) Education Restart**

This is definitely a year like no other! Whether returning to school post COVID-19, moving to nursery for the first time or changing classes, the aim is for a smooth transition from one setting or stage to another. Transition brings both new experiences and fresh challenges; it can be a difficult and anxious time for both children and parents but with careful planning and preparation it can also be a stimulating and positive experience.

This pack includes a range of visual information and resources that aim to support key aspects for a smoother return to school. Take time to choose which resources are most suitable to support your child as they adjust to their new normal. Discuss the transition with your child, listen to their concerns about returning to school and reassure them that there are many people available to support them in their journey.

Liaise closely with the school regarding your child's concerns, their strengths and areas of need. It may be useful to complete some of the booklets included in this pack and share them with school so that school staff have an increased understanding of your child's personal experiences. Collaboration between home and school is essential in order to get the best from these resources and, in turn, meet the needs of your child.

Remember that transition can be a very exciting time for children, full of lots of new experiences and opportunities to learn. Your child may be looking forward to reconnecting with school friends or starting new activities. Highlighting these positives may help support transitioning by creating a positive narrative.

### Contents

1. Home School Reflection Booklet
2. Staying Safe Social Stories and Schedules
3. Education Restart Social Stories and New Teacher Activity
4. Ready for School Checklist
5. Countdown Calendars
6. Supporting your child's Education Restart Parent Booklet