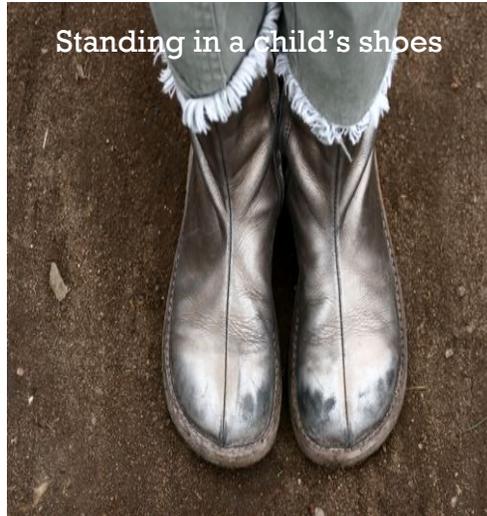


School Readiness

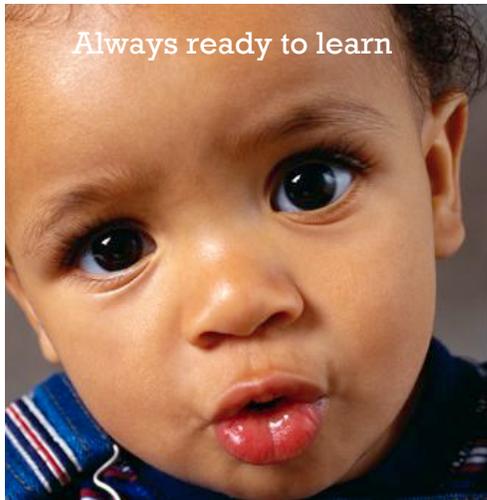
Standing in a child's shoes



Early Years practitioners from schools in Cluster Group came together to explore the context and issues around 'school readiness.'

In the afternoon sessions delegates began to explore what they considered important factors for the children, families and schools in the cluster.

Always ready to learn



Readiness of the child

Readiness of the school



Childhood

"Childhood is not a preparation for life, Childhood is life. A child isn't getting ready to live, a child is living."

John Taylor

Readiness of the child...

Common threads identified as important factors by delegates included:

- Recognition of the unique child
- Concept of being ready for the world not just 'ready for school'
- Importance of partnership with parents – as co-educators supporting children's development and understanding around transitions
- Approaches to learning, curiosity, enthusiasm, positive attitude and dispositions
- Social and emotional development, understanding and expressing emotions, independence, resilience, self confidence including separation
- Language and communication skills

What is your image of the child?

How does this impact on your views in relation to school readiness?

Do you have a common understanding of 'school readiness' in your schools?



Children of the future...

Education for the 21st century



Readiness of the school...

Common threads identified as important factors by delegates

- Supporting child, family and staff to make smooth transitions through effective information sharing and by showing cultural sensitivity
- Time to build relationships
- Ensuring consistency in staffing for children and parents in order to facilitate positive relationships
- Staffing levels appropriate to meet developmental needs of children
- Placing high priority on relationship with parents
- Building on where children are in their learning
- Using children's interests to engage and motivate children
- Having flexibility to respond to child as an individual
- Staff who understand how young child learn

