Kildare Junior Transition Programme

Overview of KCSC

- Inaugural meeting – June 2009
- Coordinator post (P/T): March 2011
- 3-Year Action Plan: Sept. 2011
- Population: 210,312
- 17 years & under: 59,449 (28.2%Kildare) (25% State)
- 5 years & under: 22,361 (10.6% Kildare) (9.2% State)
- Population Growth rate 2006–2011: 12.9% (8.2% State)

Background to Pilot Programme

- ESL ided as priority issue
- NB: transition points in education lifecycle
- Agreed to pilot in local area → junior transition (pre-school to primary)

Project Partners

- Kildare County Childcare Committee
- Scoil Mhuire Junior School, Newbridge (DEIS)
- Childsplay Créche, Newbridge (private)
- Rainbowbrite Montessori, Newbridge (private)
- Newbridge Family Resource Centre (community)
- Kildare Children's Services Committee

Purpose of the Programme

- Support children, parents, pre-schools & schools with transition
- Strengthen rel. between pre-schools & school
- Enhance communication between pre-schools & school
- Develop effective standard tool for info transfer
- Develop way to ID children who may need extra help to make transition
- ID ways of supporting those who need extra help
- Encourage parents' involvement in child's development
- Evaluate & expand (if findings positive!)

What was the process?

- Local primary school IDed via KCSC ESL Group
- Met with JI teachers & HSCL
- IDed main feeder pre-schools
- Met with 2 services (Nov. '12) 3rd joined (Jan. '13)
- Regular meetings – pre-schools, school, KCCC, KCSC
- (9 meetings Dec 12 – Jun 13):
  ◦ Experience of transition – issues & challenges
  ◦ Info useful for schools to have from pre-schools
  ◦ Key skills/competencies for smooth transition
  ◦ Review of tools used by pre-schools e.g. checklists, end-of-year reports.
  ◦ Review of models elsewhere e.g. Child Snapshot Form, All About Me, EDI, Marte Meo.
  ◦ Design of tool – how to present, how to approach
  ◦ How to evaluate

What did we come up with?

Name of Pre School:

Address of Pre School:

Phone Number of Pre School:

Name of Primary School:

Address of Primary School:

Phone number of Primary School:

working together
FOR CHILDREN
Kildare Children's Services Committee

Child's
Play

Family Support Agency

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

pobal

Kildare
County
Childcare
Committee

MY "I CAN" BOOK!

My name is _____.

I was born on _____.

The three positive words that best describe
me are _____, _____

and _____.

The activities I enjoy most at pre-school are

_____, _____

and _____.

I have learned lots of things this year...........

= I can do this most of the time

= I'm nearly there

= I am still working on this

I CAN Book & Guidance Notes

Cognitive Development

I CAN

Identify at least 3 objects from a broad range of categories e.g. animals, food	✦	✦	✦
Point to primary colours red, blue, yellow, green	✦	✦	✦
Look at books, turning one page at a time, talking about story/picture	✦	✦	✦
Take part in imaginative play	✦	✦	✦

I AM

Eager to play with a new toy	✦	✦	✦
Eager to play a new game	✦	✦	✦

Self Help Skills

I CAN

Indicate my need to use the toilet	✦	✦	✦
Toilet independently	✦	✦	✦
Use a tissue to wipe my nose	✦	✦	✦
Operate large buttons and zippers on my own clothing	✦	✦	✦
Wash my hands with soap and dry hands	✦	✦	✦
Put on my own coat	✦	✦	✦
Take off my own coat	✦	✦	✦
Open and close my own lunchbox	✦	✦	✦
Hang up my own coat/bag	✦	✦	✦

Challenges

Practical Issues

- Availability for meetings – frequent, 1 hour
- Printing & photocopying – school & KCCC funding (low volume for pilot – challenge for expansion)
- Timing – end of term busy for all – delay in roll out – June instead of May

Other issues

- Ensuring "I CAN Book" positive experience for parents & children – Guidance notes, addressed in expansion
- Ensuring "I CAN Book" used for intended purpose
- Uncertainty re: KCCC role in expansion→ negotiation needed with funder
- What can we offer when ID those who need extra? – looking at this in next phase
- Evaluation – Primetime shifted focus – parent feedback difficult

Some "hoped for" benefits
(Evaluation findings pending)

Schools

- Will have better picture of needs of Junior Infants – individual & group
- Use this info to better prepare e.g. target part. skills areas in class, spread need across classes, early stage id of individual child's needs

Parents

- Better understanding of child's achievements in pre-school, skills still developing & ways to foster these.

Pre-Schools

- Standard & effective tool for info transfer
- Tool & process on which to build rel. & communication with school.

Children

- Smoother & more positive transition into Junior Infants, supported by parents, pre-school & school.

Where to from Here?................

▸ Evaluation

▸ Expansion

▸ Supports for those identified as needing extra supports.

QUESTIONS?