



SPECIAL NEEDS | FIELD GUIDE

When your child changes schools midyear

Carry forward what works so your child is not starting from zero.

A note from Victoria

A new school can feel like another introduction you have to get exactly right. Your child already has strengths, preferences, and supports worth carrying forward.

What to do

Ask how formal records and plans transfer and who confirms receipt. Prepare a short handoff with your child's strengths, communication style, reliable supports, early signs of overload, and one thing they want the new adults to know. Request a named contact and a check-in date after the first weeks. Let your child see or contribute to the introduction. Seek qualified advocacy if required services are delayed.

Words you can use

"Who will confirm the plan was received and understood before the first day, and when can we review how the transition is going?"

One useful step I can take today:

I could start with: Choose three supports that should be ready on day one, not after a problem appears.

The strength I see in you

You are bringing your child's hard-earned knowledge into a new place.

Educational peer support, not individualized medical, legal, or school advice. Partner with your child and their care or school team; consult a qualified advocate about rights questions.



SPECIAL NEEDS | WORKSHEET

When your child changes schools midyear

Use this page in your own words. You can leave any part blank.

Strengths the new school should know

Three supports needed on day one

Who will confirm the handoff

My next manageable step

A person, service, or place I can turn to (if useful)

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