Getting ready for school

Of the children:
- 96% had completed a B4SC by the time they were at school
- 98% had attended ECE in the six months before starting school

Of the mothers:
- 97% of mothers had actively engaged in transition activities with their child, e.g. school visits
- 76% felt their child was ready for school, 68% said their child was happy to go to school and 64% said their child was excited about going to school

Adjusting to school

- “Fitting in socially” and “making friends”: mothers’ main concerns for their children starting school
- Less than a month: the time it took most children and mothers to adjust to school
- 70% of mothers and 72% of children had no difficulty when starting school

Choosing a school

- Trusted friends & the school prospectus or website: the most common sources of advice for parents choosing a school
- 96% of mothers rated educational resources as the most important factor for choosing a school, followed by a ‘good reputation’ (92%)

Being at school

- 99% were attending primary school by age six
- 85% were attending a state primary school and 26% had experienced a Modern Learning Environment* in their first year of school
- 12% had moved school at least once before they were six
- 25% of mothers also reported their child had had at least one change in classroom teacher
- 24% attended after school care, 8% attended before school care
- More than 3/4 lived within five kilometers of their school but only a quarter of children used active forms of transport such as walking, biking or scootering. 68% travelled to/from school by car

Of the children:
- 10% were in classes of 15 children or less and around 6% in classes of 30+ students. The most common class size was 20-25 children

Of the mothers:
- 88% were regularly involved in some way with their children’s school
- 2/3 were satisfied the current school was meeting their child’s needs across key areas

NB: The information contained in the above infographic, and the remainder of this report, is based on a Data Collection Wave participation rate of 84% (of all mothers of the 6853 cohort children).

* Refer ‘The Modern Learning Environment’ Section 5, page 67 of this Transition to school report.