

Handout 9.1**Setting up a parent information session
Simulation**

Imagine you are meeting to set up a parent information session with a school. You have 30 - 40 minutes to go through a few key questions –

- What information do parents get already?
- How does the session support the school's strategy for work with parents?
- How will you reach all parents starting school?

Your group includes –

1. A facilitator: their role is to find out what they need to know to organise a parent information session
2. School staff: their role is to fit the session into the school schedule
3. Parents: their role is to give a parents' view of what is needed

As a suggestion_

- 'Parents' should be participants who have recently gone through, or are currently experiencing school transition with their child
- School staff could be those who hold, or previously held, senior posts in school
- Others are the facilitators

Note that this is a simulation rather than a role play, so people are playing themselves in these positions.

They may have to imagine themselves into this role at a specific school where they will run the session. .

- Start by briefly introducing yourself 'in role', as school staff, parents & facilitator
- The facilitator briefly presents the aims of the parent information session
- 'Staff' & 'parents' ask for clarification *only if they are actually unclear*
- The facilitator then asks what information parents are given when they start school at present (use next handout as a guide).