Virtual Visit

**Supporting student transition through virtual visits**

[Music]

[Voice-over]

Transitioning form one school location to another can at times be demanding for students of all ages.

For a student with autism, transitioning can be particularly challenging and stressful.

A simple way that teachers can support students with autism to transition smoothly is through virtual visits – an example of an evidence-based strategy known as visual supports.

Virtual Visits utilise everyday technology (Including smart phones and tablets) to record journeys throughout the school.

Individuals or groups of students can subsequently view these recordings to prepare for transition.

To supplement the visual scaffolding provided by the recording, a sensory guide outlining possible sensory experiences, such as sounds and smells, can also be developed.

For example, a Prep-aged student may require support to successfully transition from the ‘drop off’ zone to the classroom.

A video of this journey can be recorded and used as required, to prepare the student to make this journey – it may even be stored on the students’ or parents’ device and viewed immediately prior to leaving the car.

A common journey in the school-life of a Prep student is from the classroom to their school bag or the drinking fountains.

The virtual visit can also be used to prepare student for off campus activities such as excursions and camps.

Footage of the unfamiliar environment is recorded in advance of the outing and used (in association with a sensory guide) to prepare the student to access this new venue.

Virtual visits can be further extended through the filming of specific school locations such as different classrooms, specialist rooms, playgrounds and school halls.

Students can be empowered and supported to access this strategy by filming the footage for themselves – for their own personal use, or for use by their peers.

[Music]