

A Word About Honeymoons

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It's not unusual for some children, after one or two weeks of "I can't wait to go to school!" to suddenly appear hesitant, reluctant, or even burst into tears at drop-off time. This can leave a parent with a confusing sense of "I thought he/she loved school!?" . This is perfectly normal behavior. After the novelty of going to a brand-new and fun school has worn off (around week two or three) children realize that going to school is definitely a part of their new daily routine. Young children are expressing the memory of being at home in an environment that doesn't require them to be outside of their familiar comfort zone. Please be assured that this phase passes quickly; your child is gaining valuable independence and self-reliance skills at school that will serve him/her well.

One way to help your child through this phase, is to express your confidence in his/her abilities, and your confidence in the fact that he/she will have fun at school. Another way to help your child work through these feelings is by making the drop-off time short and quick. The children all know by now what to do when they arrive, and most of them can complete their arrival tasks without coaching. So we encourage you to give your child the opportunity to practice and develop these new self-reliance skills. As parents ourselves we've had the experience of leaving a teary child at school (it's tough!). As professional educators, though, we can reassure you that your child is fine within a couple of minutes after you leave, and the self-confidence they gain by working through this phase is priceless.

A positive and upbeat attitude at home towards school, and expressions of confidence in your child, will soon have them telling you again "I can't wait to go to school!"