

Settling in Pre-School – Policy and Practice

This policy describes the way we want our children to safe and happy in the absence of their parents/carers, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with their parents/carers afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in pre-school

In order to accomplish this we will:

- Encourage parents to visit the pre-school with their children during the weeks before an admission is planned.
- Introduce flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children.
- The child's key person will introduce themselves to the child and parent/carer on their arrival at pre-school.
- Make it known that parents/carers can ring the pre-school at any time to check how their child is.
- Make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in pre-school for as long as it takes to settle their child there.
- Reassure parents whose children seem to be taking a long time to settle into pre-school.
- Introduce new families into the group on a staggered basis, for example two new children a day for a week rather than ten new children all at once.
- Encourage parents where appropriate, to separate their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences.

Children cannot learn to play successfully if they are anxious or unhappy. Our settling procedures aim to help parents to help their children to feel comfortable in the pre-school, to benefit from what it has to offer, and to be confident that their parents will return at the end of the session.