

SETTLING INTO PRE-SCHOOL POLICY

Aim

We accept new children at any time, subject to availability, and age.

Methods

In order to make starting Pre-School as easy as possible, we ask parents to stay for sessions prior to starting, so that the child can see the daily routine, meet other children and become familiar with the room whilst having the security of their parent/guardian present. These initial visits are free, and parents are encouraged to make them. (This is especially important for those children who have not previously been away from their main carer)

1. During the initial visit we gather information about the child such as likes/dislikes, particular activities/toys that the child prefers. This is then used to help the child settle.
2. We encourage children to bring in 'comforts' from home which they can use as they feel necessary.
3. For older children, who may have transferred from another setting we will introduce them to the other children and ask them to be kind and help the other child find new things and show them what we do.
4. During these initial sessions we make observations (to include talking to the parent/child) regarding what toys/activities the like/dislike and what skills they are already showing. In this way we can see 'where the child is', although we realise that they may be less confident initially and therefore not necessarily demonstrating their full range of skills.

Starting Pre-School

For children under three (or those who have not previously been away from their carer) In line with PLA recommendations

In the child's best interest we ask parents (carers, grandparents) to stay with their child for as long as needed. This allows the child an opportunity to become familiar with the setting, our routines and the staff whilst having the assurance of their parent there. Once the child demonstrates they feel safe with a key person we will ask parents to 'pop out' for a short time (20 minutes max). Once the child has built their secure base (i.e. built up a good trusting relationship with their key worker and able to cope with short separations) the length of separation will be increased until they are happy to stay for the whole session. The length of this process will vary depending on the number of sessions attended and the child.

For children who have transferred from other settings

We ask parents to ensure they visit prior to starting and when this is not possible to stay for the first sessions.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the pre-school held on (date).....

Signed on behalf of the pre-school.....