

Settling in Routine

We want you and your child to enjoy being part of our pre school. We recognise and understand that starting pre school can be upsetting for some children (and parents) and we will work together to make the transition from home to pre school as easy as possible.

It is recommended that you make a visit to the pre school with your child prior to actually starting and stay for as long as you wish. Your child will be invited to join in with the activities or if they prefer sit and watch.

Prior to starting you and your child will be invited to a 'mini' session, which will give you the opportunity to meet your child's key person. The key person is your first point of contact for anything to do with your child. During this session, the key person will discuss the settling form with you; this allows you to share some information about your child with us. (The settling in form will be sent to you prior to the mini session). We will show you and your child around the pre school and tell you about what happens during the session; please ask as many questions as you want.

On the first day, some children are happy to be left immediately and others will need longer to feel confident in their new surroundings. You are welcome to stay for long as you wish. If your child is upset at being left then we will work with you to agree how the situation will be handled.

If your child is not happy to be left, then during the first 4 or 5 sessions you may want to stay and be there to give encouragement and confidence; your child will be able to see you and return for reassurance whenever they wish. However, we would ask you to try not to be too involved in activities so that your child can start to develop a relationship with their key person. You should also leave for a short period of time and extend this as your child gains confidence.

All children will react differently and you may find that it is better if you do not stay for a long period at the start – a quick goodbye could be best. You can then return at a specified time and take your child home. The period of time your child is left is then extended until they are staying for the whole session.

You can be assured that the staff will give comfort and distraction to a child who is upset and the majority of children settle quickly once the parent has left. If a child is still distressed after 20 minutes we will contact you. All members of staff have been through this process with their own children and so understand the feelings involved.

Please approach your child's key person if you have any concerns and be assured that all information and discussions are in strict confidence.