



Settling and transitions

Policy statement

At Little Squirts we recognise the impact that early transitions can have on a child's overall well-being and therefore have a settling process for when they start at the setting as well as when they move between rooms.

Our intention

We intend to ensure children are settled in to nursery appropriately and experience smooth transitions throughout.

Procedures

Home visits

Before a child attends a settle session we offer parents the opportunity to have a home visit. These will be carried out with the owner or manager who is accompanied by the child's key person, this allows for the key person to establish a relationship with the child in their own environment so that when they do attend their settle session they have a familiar face.

During the home visit the key person will predominantly be interacting with the child whilst the owner/ manager ensures any paperwork is completed by the parent or guardian. If the child appears comfortable with the key person, it is suggested that parents/ guardians 'pop out' of the room for short periods to help build trust and security.

Settle session

Following a home visit the child is then invited to attend a settle session of just 2 hours to allow them time to explore their environment without it being too long for them initially. Throughout this session the key worker will be engaging the child with various activities.

Parents/ guardians are required to stay for at least an hour of this session, it is suggested that they try to move away from their child once they are engaged but to be close by in case the child feels they need to return for some reassurance. Parents should also 'pop out' of the room to help the child establish trust and security in their new environment.

If, following the settle session, parents/ guardians feel that their child would benefit from additional settles this can be arranged to suit the needs of the child.

Transitions from the baby room

Transitions should be treated as a new starter to the turtle room with the 'home visit' carried out by key person visiting the child's current room to establish the relationship and the current key person 'popping out' of the room.

Following the new key person's visit the child will then visit the turtle room with their current key person as this should help them to feel more secure. The new key person will try and engage the child in various activities and the current key person will slowly move away to allow them to bond.

Initial settle sessions into the turtle room will be at free play times so that the child can experience their environment before having to follow new routines.

Transitions to school

We work with the local schools to help assist in a smooth transition into school. Teachers are invited into the setting to meet with the children and we have lots of discussions and activities that link to getting ready for school towards the end of the term.

We complete transfer to school forms for all children that detail their learning and development as well as any other significant information.

Looked after children

At Little Squirts we recognise that children who are ‘looked after’ or have been ‘previously looked after’ are likely to have experienced trauma in their life. This may cause transitions to become more difficult for that child and we will always work closely with parents/ carers to ensure each child is fully supported through any transitions.

This policy was adopted by Little Squirts Preschool on 23rd March 2023 (review date 1st March 2024)

Signed.....

Name.....

Role.....