

Settling in Pre-School – Policy and Practice

We want the children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognize other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship, and to be able to share with their parents afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the pre-school. In order to achieve this, we will:

- Encourage parents to visit the pre-school with their children during the weeks before an admission is planned.
- Arrange for the pre-school leader to visit the family at home if possible, in order to gain more insight into the child's background and needs and allow the child to become familiar with the pre-School adults – if requested by the family.
- Introduce flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children.
- Make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in the pre-school for as long as it takes to settle their child there.
- Introduce new families into the group on a staggered basis, for example two new children per day for a week rather than ten new children on one day.
- Encourage parents, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. Our settling in 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