

1.2 Settling in Policy



Settling in

We know that this can be an emotional time for both the child and parents. We aim to ensure your child's introduction to our setting is as stress free as possible. Once a place has been offered, we aim to achieve this by inviting you and your child to visit the nursery prior to your child's official start date. These visits are called "settling in days" and they help to familiarise your child with the nursery, the nursery staff and the other children.

A child who is tense or unhappy will not be able to play or learn properly, so it is important for parents/carers and staff to work together to help the child feel confident and secure in the group. This may take longer for some children and parents/carers should not feel worried if their child takes a while to settle. You must be prepared to accept that it may take some time for your child to adjust to the nursery environment but very few children fail to settle eventually. We find that staying with your child and then leaving him/her for short periods eases the separation process. The nursery offers 2 settling sessions over two days and the third day is the actual start date. It is not unusual for a child to appear unhappy when initially being left in, though once the parent leaves, the distress rarely lasts for more than a few minutes. The excitement of their new surroundings and the other children quickly attracts their attention. Parents can feel reassured that if their child shows any undue distress, they will be advised, and a number of alternative settling approaches will be suggested. On enrolment the Manager will discuss with parents' various options for the settling in period. We are also happy for parents to telephone at any time for an update on their child. Please remember, the more your child comes and experiences the activities on offer and sees you interacting with the staff, the more settled she/he will feel. Below is our recommended programme to introduce your child to life at the nursery.

Day 1: 10.00-11.00am or 2.30pm-3.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Arrive at 10.00 am / 2.30 pm to stay and play with your child until 11.00 am / 3.30 pm.✓ You will meet your child's Keyworker, the Nursery Manager and the rest of the team.✓ Your child will be encouraged to observe the other children and join in with activities, as long as he/she feels comfortable in doing so.✓ Parents will be required to complete several forms and documents detailing all the individual needs of the child. This visit will last 1 hours.
Day 2: 10.00am-12.00pm or 2.00pm- 4.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Arrive at 10.00 am / 2.00 pm to drop your child for their second settling in day.✓ You will then be encouraged to say goodbye to your child and not just "slip away". Children need to know that their parents have left and are not hiding. This will also help them to learn that having left, parents will also return.