

## Early Years Settling in Policy

**Approved by:** Erika Vargova **Date:** 01/09/2023

**Last reviewed on:** September 2023

**Next review due by:** September 2024

Children settle into a new setting in lots of different ways and timescales. Many children will settle comfortably into the kindergarten rhythm during the first week. Some children take a little longer. If a child is distressed about separating from their parent or carer the teacher will discuss strategies with the parent/carer. This may include the parent/carer staying in kindergarten **for the outdoor part of the morning**. The teacher will carefully observe the child and as they become familiar with the rhythm and environment, the teacher will agree with the parent/carer a gradual reduction in the amount of time they spend in kindergarten. We expect that children should be able to say goodbye with ease by the end of the first half term at the latest.

Children often find the actual separation from a parent/carer the most difficult part of coming to kindergarten and will calm down once their parents/carers have left. The teacher will advise the parent/carer when they would like the parent/carer to leave. This may mean that a child is left in tears, however, they will be comforted and supported by the teacher or assistant and the parent/carer will be contacted by phone to reassure them that their child is happy and coping. In the first week we advise that parents stay close to the school in case the child finds it more difficult to settle. Once we notice children are nearly fully settled we ask parents/carers to make partings brief.

During the period of transition and adjustment it is important for the parents/carers to remain positive about the situation. To show understanding and support for the child's feelings, assure them that they will return after story time and leave them with a hug and a confident smile. Prolonging the parting prolongs the time it takes for children to adjust to the morning good-byes. If parents/carers show confidence in the teacher and environment then the children will assimilate these feelings.

The first few weeks of kindergarten can be tiring for some children, especially for the young ones, so the teacher may recommend they have a shorter day or week if needed.

For children with EAL and no spoken English, it may be possible for that child to be placed with a teacher who speaks their home language. Teachers will communicate closely with parents and may provide written copies of stories, songs and ring times for parents to translate at home. At the admission meeting parents are requested to teach their children simple phrases in English such as, "I need the toilet" before the child starts in kindergarten.

Before the autumn term begins there will be a picnic for all kindergarten families. This will help children to become familiar with their teachers and the kindergarten environment without the trauma of the parents leaving. For children starting in January, when the weather is not suitable for picnics, there will be another social gathering before their first day so they can meet their teacher and visit the kindergarten space.

Children start on different days throughout the first week. This is to give them more individual attention when they first arrive. Children do not start on a Friday in order to provide some routine before the weekend break.

We offer home visits to support families transition into kindergarten and also helps teachers gain knowledge regarding different family cultures, practices as we recognise and value that all families are different. Home visits help to develop trust, good communication and a strong relationship between families and practitioners. Please see the Home Visit Agreement

[W Home Visit Agreement Kindergarten.docx](#)

Teachers will be available to talk at any stage of the settling in process. There is time for brief, informal chats at the beginning and end of each session and appointments can be made for more in depth conversations with the teacher.

Children are usually ready and very excited about starting kindergarten, exploring the world beyond their homes, and having a social life outside of their family. We will do our best to support children and their families in making this transition as gentle and happy as possible.