



### Settling In Policy

We recognise and respect the importance of the relationship that a child has with their parents/carers.

***Attachment research by John Bowlby highlights the fact that both sensitive and loving care giving and the development of a secure relationship are central to optimal child development, as described in A Secure Base: parent-child attachment and healthy human development (Bowlby, J. 1988)***

We like our children to, with their parents/carers to visit the setting at least twice before the child is due to start. This enables the child and indeed the parent/carer to familiarise themselves with the settings layout, the staff, the routines and the other children.

We also offer a 'Home Visit' to parents before their child starts the setting (this is the choice of the parent/carer). When we visit, two staff members will come between 20-30mins, this will be the Manager and the member of staff who will become the key person for the child. The Manager and/or Key person will sit and speak to the parent/carer about the child's likes, dislikes, routine, comforters, favourite song, story, toy and what the child's interests are and any other items the parent/carers wishes to discuss. They are asked to complete the 'All about me' section on the Blossom app. The key person spends time with the child, playing with some toys that we have brought and the child's toys if they wish. This has proven to be very successful in helping the children settle at the setting.

When the child's big day comes at starting preschool parents/carers are asked to stay to settle their child at an activity with their key person. We then take the lead from the child and their parent/carer, the parent/carer may wish to leave, or wait in the kitchen area, or they may wish to stay, this is entirely their choice.

Staff will support the child and their parents should this be a difficult time. Parents/carers are welcome to telephone the setting at any point during the session to check whether their child has settled well. We recognise the need to explain and reassure parents/carers about this process as well as the children.

"3.27.Each child must be assigned a key person. Their role is to help ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents."

***(Early Years Foundation Stage 2021, statutory framework 21, pg27)***

We support breast feeding and parents are able to stay at the setting to feed younger siblings.

Signed : ..... Date: .....

Review Date: September 2023