



Woodland Grange Pre-School Settling in Policy

Statement of intent

We want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy at Woodland Grange Pre-School and to feel secure and comfortable with staff. We also want parents/carers to have confidence in both their children's well-being and their role as active partners with the setting.

Aim

We aim to make the pre-school a welcoming place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

Methods

Children Beginning Pre School

- Before a child starts Woodland Grange Pre-School, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information (including our prospectus and policies), displays about activities available within the setting and individual meetings with parents.
- We may offer a home visit by the person who will be the child's key person, if we feel this is necessary.
- Before a child is enrolled, we provide opportunities for the child and his/her parents/carers to visit the setting.
- We use settling in visits and the first session at which a child attends to explain and complete with his/her parents any documents necessary.
- Children and their parents/carers are invited to visit the pre-school for a 'taster' session. This is usually as near to the child starting pre-school as possible. During the 'taster', children, parents/carers are introduced to the staff and the child's key worker if this has been allocated and informed about preschool routines. The children are encouraged to take a full part in the session.
- We appreciate that children have stronger bonds with some adults more than others. Staff will constantly review the settling in process and reassign Key Workers for a child if it is in the best interests of the child.
- Once the child has started pre-school, staff will agree the best settling procedures with the parent/carer. Most children settle immediately and are able to stay for the full session from the outset. Some children require more support to make the transition to pre-school, a positive experience for them. Settling strategies may include e.g. initially staying for shorter part of a session, initially attending 3 sessions of the week, parent/carer staying for the first half hour until the child is more confident staying on his/her own.

- When parents leave, we ask them to say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back, and when.
- We do not believe that leaving a child to cry will help them to settle any quicker. We believe that a child's distress will prevent them from learning and gaining the best from early years.
- Staff will constantly review settling progress and discuss next steps with parents/carers.
- We reserve the right not to accept a child into the setting without a parent or carer if the child finds it distressing to be left. This is especially the case with very young children.
- We reserve the right to delay the start of a child if we feel they are not ready for the pre-school environment.

Daily Welcoming of Children

- A member of the pre-school team welcomes children and parents/carers at the classroom door.
- Parents/carers should then assist their child in the cloakroom, promoting as much independence as possible when changing. There are individual pegs for coats and bags. The pegs are labelled with the child's picture.
- When children enter the classroom, they are welcomed by a member of staff and helped to self-register.
- Children are then encouraged to have a time of free play. Occasionally, children may need the support of the key person or parent/carer to settle and subsequently select an activity they feel comfortable with. Children are able to mix with all children in the pre-school.

We judge a child to be settled when they have formed a relationship with their key person; for example the child looks for the key person when he/she arrives, goes to them for comfort, and seems pleased to be with them. The child is also familiar with where things are and is pleased to see other children and participate in activities.

We appreciate that every child is different with unique settling in needs. Our settling in policy is very flexible and we will do our very best to accommodate the needs of your child to ensure they settling into Woodland Grange Pre-School successfully.