

Settling In Policy

At Little Pumpkins Nursery, we want to make the transition from home to Nursery a positive experience that focuses on the individual needs of the child and family.

Our aim is:

- To support children in the transition from home, family and familiar people, into the new community of the Nursery
- To help children make a strong attachment to their Key Person
- To help children feel secure and confident in Nursery
- To work closely with parents/carers
- To work with the child and family on any difficulties that might arise

Once a place is guaranteed for a child, they will be assigned a Key Person. Every child attending Little Pumpkins Nursery has a Key Person. This member of staff will have special responsibilities for working with a small number of children and for developing a genuine bond with the child and their parent/s. The Key Person will also help your child and parent/s to become familiar with the Nursery and feel confident and safe within it.

We will arrange settling in/pre-visit sessions for children at the Nursery. The settling-in sessions/pre-visits will be a time before the child joins the Nursery where they can visit in order to get to know their Key Person, the other staff members, children and the routines etc. The Key Person will work with the parent to complete the 'All about me' and registration forms during the settling in period. The child's Key Person will be responsible for the development and learning record.

As a matter of policy, we encourage children to visit Little Pumpkins Nursery on at least two occasions before the starting date. For the first visit, we suggest it should be around two hours long. We invite parents to stay with their child for the first visit, so that they can talk to the staff about routines and anything else they want to know. For the second visit, we suggest a stay of two hours again, and you are able to leave your child for this visit.

These visits may be over the course of a mealtime, so that the child can experience eating within a large group. We understand that some children may need more than two visits and, if this is the case, more can be arranged.

Please be reassured and try not to worry if your child experiences difficulties; it is a normal part of a child's development to be anxious, nervous or angry about starting Nursery. We also recognise that many parents will find this a difficult and sometimes upsetting process. We hope that we can call on our experience to support you and your child in whatever way suits you.

The above is a guide; some children settle into a new environment with ease, other children may need more re-assurance. Sometimes, it is parents who benefit most from the settling-in sessions/pre-visits. Whatever the case, please be reassured that the staff will wholeheartedly support your child and family when joining the Nursery.

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