

## Settling in Policy and Practice

We want children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship, and to be able to share with their parents afterwards the new learning experience enjoyed in the preschool. In order to accomplish this, we will:

Encourage parents to visit the preschool with their children during the weeks before an admission is planned

Introduce flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children

Make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in the preschool for as long as it takes to settle their child there

Reassure parents whose children seem to be taking a long time settling into the preschool

Introduce new families into the group on a staggered basis, for example two new children a day for a week rather than ten new children all at once

Encourage parents, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. Our settling procedures aim to help parents to help their children to feel comfortable in the preschool, to benefit from what it has to offer, and to be confident that their parents will return at the end of the session.