

## **Little Stars Pre-school**

### **SETTLING IN POLICY**

For many children, starting in pre-school is their first step towards independence and there are more important lessons to be learnt:

- that it is possible to feel safe and happy while parents/carers are not present for a while.
- that other adults can be a source of authority, help and friendship.
- that new play and learning experiences can be enjoyed in the group and shared with parents/carers afterwards.

To help with the settling in period at Little Stars Pre-school:-

- arrange a home visit with the child's key person and one other member of staff to introduce the child's key person in their own environment therefore having a familiar couple of faces on their first day.
- inform parents/carers to be prepared to stay with their child in the group until he or she is ready to be left alone. All children are different and this may take anything from a few minutes to a few weeks or even months. We feel that in such events, it is best to stay at pre-school and not take the child home. For children that find parting very hard, it may help to have a very brief separation at first, just to post a letter or pop to the shop. This type of separation method can be extended gradually allowing the child to become more confident. During this period, it is particularly important to be punctual when picking up. If a parent is not there at the time he or she has promised, the child's new built confidence can be upset and this can cause setbacks.
- If your child is unsettled when left, we will contact you to inform you when settled.
- Encourage parents/carers who feel that their child is ready to be left, to say goodbye and not to creep out of the door while the child is not looking. This may seem easier for all concerned at the time but can cause a child to feel let down or mistrustful.
- Encourage parents to talk about pre-school at home, about the lovely things that will and do happen there.

This policy was adopted by Little Stars Pre-school

Signed on behalf of the pre-school: Jo Mengham

Role of signatory: Owner

This policy is a static policy for our website and will be reviewed and amended throughout the academic year. Copies of our up to date policies can be seen at our Pre-school.