

Settling In Policy

At Deepdale Pre-school we want any child at any stage to be happy, feel secure, and feel trust and to feel welcome.

We also want parents to have confidence in both their children’s wellbeing and their role as active partners within the setting.

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

At Deepdale Pre-school we work with parents to help settle the children by following a few points:

1. We welcome the parent and child to visit as many times as they like before they are on the register. It must be noted parent stays with the child as not covered under insurance.
2. When on the register, the child will be given a starting date
3. Parent and child will be welcomed together on the first session and the parent/carer may stay as long as they wish.
4. If a parent states that they want the child to be independent from the start we will acknowledge this. However, if we feel this is not the right thing for the child we will re-assess. Communication with parents is of paramount importance.
5. Flexibility is vital and each child has to be accepted as an individual and their individual need catered for.
6. We are here to support the child, but also the parent.
7. Re-assurance will be given to all, if settling in seems to be taking longer than expected. Each case will be treated on its own merit.
8. If we have a large intake, we may stagger starting dates, again to offer the smoothest and gentlest settling.

Once the child has started and the parent and staff feel that the child is settling, the parent is welcome to move to another room and give their child some space. This can be extended until we feel that the child could cope with a half or whole session. This way we can build up the time, aiming for the parent to be able to go home.

1. When parents leave, we ask them to say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back, and when.
2. A parent is encouraged to ring us from home to check how the child is doing, this is better than sitting home worrying! Also, we often ring parents to say all is well.
3. Settling in is a shared process between parent, staff and of course the children.