

Settling Children in to the Setting

Category: Early Years

Risk Management and Legal Implications

Failure to manage risk may impact on the delivery of Service objectives and the outcomes achieved by Service users. Education and Children’s Services aim to mitigate the implications by ongoing management and review of risk in all elements of work activity.

The production of this document is one way in which we aim to reduce our exposure to risk. By providing staff with information on good practice, making reference to other guidance that is available across the Council and providing clarity on how we should do things, we can ensure that the management of risk is intrinsic to what we do.

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Settling Children into Nursery

The role of the parents and carers remain central to their children's learning journey and therefore must be valued and involved in all aspects of ELC.

"The environment of relationships within an early years setting is just as important as the physical environment. This can be understood as the balance of security, space, and sense of being loved and cherished that children need from us to feel cared for and to be able to explore and create for themselves".

(Realising the Ambition – Being Me)

It is of paramount importance to our nursery that all children in the nursery should be treated with great care and consideration. A new child and his/her family should feel comfortable, cared for and integrated into the life of the nursery as quickly as possible.

During the first two or three sessions the parents or carers should be encouraged to:

- Stay with their child (if required).
- Stay with their child for part of the time and use the parent's area to be close to hand (if required).

We can give advice on this if asked by parents or carers, but it is our preference that parents/carers should do what, in their experience, is best for their child. We fully appreciate that this can be a difficult time for both the adult and child.

It is our guidance that, so far as is possible, nursery sessions should run in the normal way when a parent or carer is present. The parent or carer should be able to see the regular pattern of what happens during the day, how the staff cope with anything unexpected and they should be able to see the level of care received by all children in the nursery.

When a child starts nursery, we are always happy to receive telephone calls from parents or carers. We fully understand that parents and carers are concerned about their child's welfare and are likely to feel upset at leaving him or her in someone else's care. We will aim to alleviate these fears. If a child is very upset it is our guidance to inform the parent/carer, thus giving them the option of calling again to see if there is still a problem. If a child remains very upset, it is the guidance of this nursery to call the parent or carer. A meeting will be arranged to discuss our concerns if a child fails to settle over a reasonable period or becomes unsettled at a later stage. It may be necessary to adapt the child's session times and length, for a period, to support him or her to settle into nursery.