



General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare
The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding children

Settling in

Policy statement

At Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool we aim to support parents/carers to help their children settle quickly and easily by giving consideration to the individual needs and circumstances of every child and their families. Our aim is for the children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in the nursery and to feel secure and comfortable with all staff. We also think it is extremely important that parent/carers have confidence in their children's continued progress and wellbeing with us and their role as active partners.

All staff know about the importance of building strong attachments with the children and this knowledge is used to support children and families when settling into the nursery.

Procedures

Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool will work in partnership with parents/carers to settle their child into the nursery environment by:

- Allocating a key person to each child and his/her family, before he/she attends. The key person welcomes and looks after the child, ensuring that their care is tailored to meet their individual needs. The key person offers a settled relationship with the child and builds a relationship with the parent/carers during the settling period and throughout his/her time at nursery.
- Reviewing the nominated person should the child bond with another member of staff.
- Introducing the buddy system so that if the key person is absent then the child has another familiar face.
- We offer home visits where possible and if necessary to each unique child's needs, i.e if a child was struggling with separation anxiety, a home visit may aid the bond and transition.

- Inform parents of where they can get access to policy and procedures, give a copy of specific policies as well as spend time together to go through the application to join, find out their child's needs, interests and overview of learning to complete a baseline check, and go through a 'My day' of routine for younger children and babies if required.
- Encourage the parent/carers and children to visit the nursery weeks before starting.
- Plan settling times where the parent/carers stay. During this time, they sit back and allow the key person to build bonds and when ready, leaves their child initially for a short period of time.
- Welcoming parents to stay with their child during the first weeks until the child feels settled and the parents feel comfortable about leaving their child. Settling in visit and introductory sessions are key to a smooth transition and ensures good communication and information sharing between staff and parents.
- Reassuring parents whose children take a long time to settle by developing a plan.
- Encouraging parents, where appropriate, to separate themselves from their children for brief periods at first then gradually building up to longer absences.
- Respecting the circumstances of all families, including those who are unable to stay for long periods of time in the nursery and reassure them of their child's progress towards settling in.
 - Not taking a child on an outing until they have completely settled
 - Careful planning - gaining a good understanding of the child's interests and enjoyments and setting up the provision accordingly.

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Karen Elliott

Hayley Donoghue