

# Transitions

Children experience many transitions in their early years; some of these planned and some unplanned. Nursery staff are sensitive to the difficulties children may have whilst going through these transitions.

Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- Death of a family member or close friend
- Death of a family pet.

Staff are trained to observe the children and as such will be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child so staff can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's behaviour.

## **Supporting transitions in the nursery**

The nursery will support all children in the nursery with any transitions they may be encountering. If the transition relates to the child starting at the nursery we will follow our settling in policy.

## **Starting school**

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious or distressed. The nursery will do all it can to facilitate a smooth move and minimise any potential stresses. We have a variety of methods that support this:

- The nursery will provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of all the schools the children may attend. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid the transition
- The nursery will invite school representatives into the nursery to introduce them to the children
- Where possible visits to the school will be planned with the staff. All staff will initiate conversations about the school with the children who are due to move to school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues to enable these to be overcome
- The nursery will ensure a comprehensive report is produced on every child starting school to enable teachers to have a good understanding of every child received. This

will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning.

### **Other early years providers**

Where children are attending other early years settings or are cared for by a childminder we will work with them to share relevant information about children's development. Where a child is brought to nursery or collected from nursery by a childminder we will ensure that key information is being provided to the child's parent by providing the information directly to the parent via email or telephone.

### **Family breakdowns**

When parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. The nursery understands that emotions may run high and will refer to the separated families policy, where applicable, which shows how the nursery will act in the best interest of the child.

### **Moving home and new siblings**

These are normally two events that parents will have advance notice of and we ask that parents let the nursery know about these events so we can support the child to be ready for this. We will spend time talking to the child and providing activities that may help the child to act out any worries they have, e.g. through role play, stories and discussions.

### **Bereavement**

The nursery has produced a separate policy on bereavement as this can be a difficult time for children and their families. The nursery will offer support to all concerned should this be required.

If parents feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes in their life, we ask that you speak to the nursery manager or a member of staff to enable this support to be put into place.

National Care Standards-

- A safe environment, Standard 2
- Health and Wellbeing, Standard 3
- Support and development, Standard 6
- A caring environment, Standard 7
- Involving other services, Standard 10
- Confidence in staff, Standard 12

Signature	Position	Review Date