

PARENT/CARER POLICY
PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS/CARERS

General Communication

We view our role in the care of children within the nursery as very much a partnership with parents. Good communication is vital and is a very important part of work within the nursery. Making time for talk between nursery staff and parents ensures high standards of childcare and parents should also allow time for this to take place. We must always appreciate that the child and his/her welfare are paramount and that they are the most important. In addition to daily discussion there are various events throughout the year, which offer a good opportunity to communicate and discuss progress. We recognise the need to work together for the benefit of the child. We welcome any parental involvement including suggestions. We aim to promote the partnership in a variety of ways, and strongly encourage all parents/carers to become involved.

Daily Communication

This offers the opportunity for staff or parents to discuss any issues or activities involving their child, including progress and well being. We ensure that time is available for these discussions, not only are they important for the parent but the communication is two way and we can learn more about the child. As well as being verbal, within the baby toddler rooms there is also a system of daily diaries in which are recorded nappy changes, feeds, sleeps and which include comments on the child's well being and activities in which they have participated.

Keyperson System

Our 'keyperson' system enables us to record a child's developmental and learning goals and together with parental input provides us with the information needed to assess the child and further promote their development whilst continually recording their progress.

Settling In

During this process it is especially important that we work closely in partnership, communicating frequently. All needs differ and some children take longer to settle than others, they may need their confidence boosting whilst taking this first big step. We feel it is essential for parents to talk to staff who will offer help and support. We also ask the parents to fill out some information on the child so as we can learn more about them as an individual and their families.

Parent's Evenings

We operate annual parents' evenings when the opportunity is available for parents to spend individual time with their child's keyperson to discuss progress. We also have all nursery and curriculum information displayed along with Learning Journey folders. Information about the nursery can be freely obtained and nursery staff are available to discuss any area as appropriate.

Social Events

Throughout the year we hold various fun social events, these offer the opportunity to discuss your child in a relaxed environment and also get to know other parents.

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Educational Activities

We encourage communication and comments about our wide educational curriculum and learning scheme. Parental involvement is encouraged to ensure learning is maximised and we appreciate the effect of a parent's active role in their child's learning and so adding to your child's Learning Journey through photos and observations would be lovely.

Behaviour Management/Discipline

At nursery we constantly use positive reinforcement and praise to encourage positive behaviour. When a child acts in a way which is harmful to others e.g. kicking, biting, scratching it is important that parents are informed to ensure that we can deal with the problem in partnership. When informing parents of behavioural difficulties, staff should always be polite, explaining that the child's behaviour is not acceptable and that we would appreciate their co-operation in a consistent approach to the problem. Senior staff would also be involved if children frequently continue with negative behaviour.

Dress/Personal Belongings

At nursery it is highly beneficial to parents, children and staff for children to wear comfortable, appropriate clothing (something that is washable and that is not treasured or valued) and that is suitable for the time of year. *This includes hats, gloves, snowsuits, warm coats or sun hats.* It is advisable that jewellery is not worn due to the fact that it may get lost or broken and can be dangerous whilst playing. Toys from home are at parent's discretion - a well loved teddy may help a child to settle but other toys brought into nursery often get lost or broken and this can cause unnecessary upset. Whilst precautions are taken, the Nursery cannot be held responsible for damage done to your child's toys, or for wear and tear that happens to their clothing. To ensure personal items are not lost or taken by accident it is helpful to *label your child's possessions and outdoor clothing with your child's name.*

Toilet Training

We always work in close liaison with parents when toilet training children and although we will not decide when the time is right for this to happen, we are happy to support and discuss this with parents/carers. We fully support toilet training and will offer any advice or assistance as required.

Sleeping

Within the baby unit we follow babies natural sleep patterns although as children get older their routine changes and we always liaise with parents wishes on sleeping as to how often, how long, not after a certain time etc.

Feeding

Mostly relevant for our babies where we must work closely in partnership especially when a child is moving on to solids. This area is also relevant with the older children who are "difficult eaters".

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In Summary

During your child's time at nursery it is our role to ensure all parents receive as much information about the nursery and its aims and objectives although if you have any further queries or would like further information please ask a senior member of staff.

At nursery we aim to:

- Make all parents aware of the nurseries policies and procedures
- Ensure all parents are informed of their child's progress regularly
- Ensure all parents have the opportunity to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests
- Involve parents in shared record keeping about their child
- Ensure parents receive regular newsletters
- Make known to parents the procedures for complaints
- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about their child's learning process