

Crossley Mill Nursery - Settling-in Policy

General Statement

At Crossley Mill Nursery we want all our babies and children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents/carers, to recognise that staff are a source of help and friendship and to be able to share with parents/carers the new learning experiences enjoyed in the nursery.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. The aim of this policy is to help parents to help their children feel comfortable in the nursery, to benefit from what it has to offer and to be confident that their parents/carers will return at the end of each session/day.

Implementation

In order to help children settle comfortably in our setting we use the following practise:

- All families are offered booked settling sessions prior to their child's start date. They are introduced to their key person and the nursery routine. Parents will be expected to stay for the first few sessions.
- Make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in the nursery for as long as it takes their child to settle and feel safe.
- Work alongside parents, providing guidance on the method of settling in most appropriate to their child's needs. For example, we may encourage parents to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences.
- Reassure and provide guidance and support to parents whose children take longer to settle in.
- A key person is allocated to every family prior to the family settling into the nursery (see Key Person Policy)