



# Starting Nursery

Simple guidelines for settling-in

# Our routine for settling-in

- We have been using the same method for many years.
- We prioritise your child's individual needs, while also considering the other children in the setting.
- We believe in honesty and trust.
- We provide one-to-one care and bonding during the settling-in period.
- The end result is a contented, confident and happy child.

# Preparing for settling-in

Some ideas to use at home:

- Play with packing and unpacking the nursery bag.
- Play games leaving a room, saying “see you later” and coming back again.
- Set up the “special job”. *Described later.*
- Practise the journey, by car or walking.  
Looking at the nursery, talk about having fun painting and playing games.

# The Special Job!

- Explain that Mummy and Daddy have a “special job” of their own. This could be reading emails, having a coffee, or making the bed.
- On the settle days, this job has not been done.
- When your child attends nursery, the teachers will explain that Mummy or Daddy have gone home to do the special job.
- When the child is collected, Mummy and Daddy excitedly talk about what they did with their special job.

# What do I need to bring?

- A bag with some spare clothes for your child.
- Soft shoes or slippers with your child's name on for "indoor shoes".
- Wellies with your child's name on for "outdoor wear".
- A lunch bag with a packed lunch if your child will be at nursery between 12-1.

# What do the nursery provide?

- A water bottle which is kept at the nursery and sterilised and filled with fresh water each day.
- A welly bag for your child to take wellies to and from nursery.
- Nappies, wipes and bags.
- Healthy snacks plus milk or water in the morning and afternoon.

# The settling-in sessions

- These are tough on Mummy and Daddy, but helpful to your child in the long run.
- Mummy and Daddy leave the setting, no matter how many tears. The child is comforted by the teacher, and the bond of trust begins. The child is given honesty and respect from the start. Mummy and Daddy do not attend nursery.
- The child has one-to-one care for all settling-in sessions.
- There are no outside visitors on settling-in sessions.
- The first sessions are for one hour, lengthening as the individual child makes progress.
- There is a gradual progression to meet and get to know other teachers, and children.
- Your child will gain confidence in learning how to use the apparatus, and find their way around.
- They will learn the boundaries of behaviour for the environments: Quiet Room, Noisy Room, Toilets, Messy Play, Quiet Garden, Noisy Garden, Allotment etc.
- Our aim is to gradually build their confidence.

# Arrival at the sessions

- Enter the gate outside the nursery, walk up the ramp and ring the door bell.
- A teacher will open the door, and will introduce you to your settle teacher: Jacky or Fatiha.
- Pass your bags to the teacher, and sign the register.
- Tell your child you are “going home to do your special job” and “see you later.”
- Give a hug and pass child into arms of teacher. Leave with a smile (however hard this is). We know how hard it is for you, but this is kinder for your child.
- Do not keep returning for extra hugs, it makes it harder for everyone.
- Do not try and get involved in an activity. Let the bond take place with the teacher. You are the parent, not the teacher.
- Do not suggest or demand an activity, such as “make me a picture”. Let your child have an open mind to explore and enjoy their own interests, not have an agenda or have a “to do list”.
- Go home, do your “special job”. Try and relax!..... Almost impossible!



# Collection time

- Say hello and give a big hug.
- Do not interrogate with “did you have a nice time?”  
On first sessions....probably not, they are missing you.
- Tell them “I have finished my job, come and see”.
- Go home, show what you have done.
- At some point, your child will invite you to look at what they do at nursery. You now have the truth from them. They will copy you with how pleased and proud you are of your special job.

# Support

- The teachers will guide you on each visit how things have gone, and explain each of the steps of progression.
- We have 'Coffee Mornings' each term to cover many subjects including the Montessori apparatus, childcare issues and new developments.
- You can always book informal "tea and chat" meetings with the manager Jacky.
- Teachers request meetings sometimes to discuss next steps if we are in a strategic development stage.
- You will be given online access to My Montessori Child where the teachers record your child's development and progress.
- You will also receive news updates via Famly, our online registration system. Once your child has settled-in, you will be asked to register on Famly and will receive a PIN code to use for signing-in and out.

# And finally...

- Settling-in is difficult for you and your child.
- We have a great deal of sympathy and experience in taking care of this important phase of your child's life.
- We understand your anxiety.
- Our parents will support you and our method. They have all had the experience..... Many of them two or three times, depending on how many children they have. They recommend us to their friends because they know how much we care about their children.
- We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our nursery.