

Transitions Policy

At Brentwood Day Nursery we recognise that young children will experience many transitions in their early years; some of these planned and some unplanned. We are sensitive to the impact of such changes to children and this policy sets out the ways in which we support children going through these transitions.

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

- Starting nursery
- Moving between different rooms within the 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 their key children and to 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.

Starting nursery

We recognise that starting nursery may be difficult for some children and their families. We have a Settling in policy to support the child and their family.

Starting school or moving childcare providers

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious about the move. We will do all we can to facilitate a smooth transition and minimise any potential stresses. This following process relates to children going to school. However, wherever possible, we will adapt this process to support children moving to another childcare provider, e.g. childminder or another nursery.

- We 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 and of the teachers (where possible). This helps the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid the transition
- Build relationships with local schools where possible throughout the year and invite them to attend e.g. One Plan meetings
- Invite school representatives into the nursery, where possible, so they have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the children
- Where possible we use other ways to support the transition to school, e.g. inviting previous children from the nursery who have moved on to school to come back and talk to the children about their school experiences
- If possible, on occasions when a child may need extra support, we plan visits to the school with the key person. Each key person will talk about the school with their key 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 help children overcome these

- We produce a comprehensive report on every child leaving the setting and with parental permission will share this with the 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. Parents have up to 60 days to download the child's report
- With parental permission around school allocation day, we may share details of the schools children are going to so parents can see which children may be going to the same school. This can offer some reassurance for the children to know that are moving with some familiar peers.
- We have several procedures in place to complete the administration of a child leaving; children will be deleted from all social media and communication groups, belongings should be collected, parking permits should be handed in, and administration procedures for archiving documents in relation to the LA procedures. The 'Access, storage and retention' policy and 'Data Protection and confidentiality' policy provides more details.

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, Online learning journal note or telephone.

Family breakdowns

We recognise that when parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. We have a Separated family policy that shows how the nursery will act in the best interest of the child.

Moving home and new siblings

We recognise that both these events may have an impact on a child. Normally, parents will have advance notice of these changes and we ask parents to let us know about these events so we can support the child to be prepared. The key person 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

We recognise that this may be a very difficult time for children and their families and have a separate Bereavement policy, which we follow to help us offer support to all concerned should this be required.

If parents feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes and/or transitions in their life, we ask that you speak to the nursery manager and the key person to enable this effective support to be put into place.

Signed on behalf of the nursery
<i>RL Austin</i>