

SETTLING IN TO PLAYGROUP POLICY

Statement of Intent

We want children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with parents afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the Playgroup.

Aim

We aim to make the playgroup a welcome place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

Methods

- Before a child starts to attend the playgroup, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information (including our prospectus and policies), an open afternoon and individual meetings with parents.
- Encourage the parents to visit the Playgroup with their children during the weeks before admission is planned.
- When a child starts to attend, we work with his/her parents to decide on the best way to help the child to settle into the playgroup.
- We reassure parents whose children seem to be taking a long time settling into the Playgroup.
- We have introduced flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children.
- We make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in the Playgroup for as long as it takes to settle their child.
- We encourage parents, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences.
- Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. Our settling procedures aim to help parents to help their children to feel comfortable in the Playgroup, to benefit from what it has to offer, and to be confident that their parents will return at the end of the session.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Playgroup held on 3rd April 2006.

Reviewed 12th November 2009

Signed on behalf of the Playgroup Committee