



## Creative Kids Early Learning Centre

### Settling in policy

**The first few weeks when a child is settling into an early years setting is a time of crucial importance to their later happiness in the setting. All children are individuals and while some children will adjust fairly easily to the new environment and new routines, others will take longer to feel comfortable and secure.**

At Creative kids Early Learning Centre, we want children to feel safe and happy within our setting as well as to feel secure and comfortable with staff. We also want you as parents to have confidence in both your child's wellbeing and your role as an active partner within our setting.

#### **Our Aims:**

- To make the setting a welcoming space for your child
- To make the setting a place where your child can settle in quickly and comfortable

#### **Our Methods:**

Before you register your child, we will provide you with the opportunity to visit our setting with your child and meet the staff team. We will allocate an educator to your child. The educator will welcome and look after your child during their first sessions and will continue providing your child with support throughout the settling in process.

When your child begins their first session with us, we will explain the process of settling in with you as parents and jointly decide on the best way to help your child settle into the nursery.

We would also encourage parents/carers to join in part of their child's first few sessions.

We would suggest at least three days of a two-hour session for settling your child. The timings for these sessions would either be 8.am-10pm or 10pm-12pm. (if the child seems confident and settled they are welcome to stay on for the full session)

We will spend quality time getting to know your child on their first day, providing relaxed opportunities for them to choose what they play with, observing what makes them tick, their personality, likes and dislikes. This information is invaluable to your Key Person and helps them to plan experiences, activities, opportunities and games for your child.

We consider a child to be settled when they have formed a relationship with their Key-Person. Each child should also be familiar with where things are and be happy to participate in activities.

When you leave your child, we ask that you say goodbye and fully explain to them that you will be coming back later and letting them know when you'll be back. Please do not 'sneak' away without saying goodbye. Say goodbye and then leave quickly and unhesitant, without looking back.

### **Our Suggestions:**

If your child cries at the moment of separation, the crying will seldom continue for more than a few minutes after you are out of sight. It is recommended that you wait in the designated parents/visitors waiting area until the educator notifies you that all is well. Only in some circumstances we might ask you to accompany your child to their class for a little period, this will depend on your child's reaction on their first day and will be up to the discretion of the teacher.

What we are trying to establish with your child, is the trust that you will return.

Children have their own individual ways of coping with the step of starting at the Centre. Some appear confident initially, then after 2-3 weeks start crying. This is quite common.

Try not to be too anxious about leaving your child if he or she is crying. Our staff are experienced in dealing with these situations and have strategies to help them. We are always happy to arrange extra settling-in sessions if either you or we feel they would be beneficial. With a smile clearly explain that you will see them later. Aim not to prolong the goodbye, as hard as this maybe, trust us, it is better for your child, they can then focus on getting on with their day.

Sometimes we can overestimate a young child's ability to cope with transitions and settle in and happily substitute a group of unfamiliar adults and children for their parents or main care giver. The lure of the toys doesn't always compensate! The experience can be overwhelming for some young children especially if they have not had experience of another form of care outside of the family.

As parents and as early years practitioners, we can take steps to ensure that the transition into the early years setting goes as smoothly as possible. Research shows that when the settling in period is positive for the child, it can not only impact on their happiness throughout their time at the early years setting but also on how the child views future transitions.

Children who have a positive start to their new environment are more likely to feel comfortable, relaxed and valued, feel good about themselves as learners and have a sense of belonging to the pre-school community. Most children settle in without too many concerns but there are some children who need more time to develop trust.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child.