

COMBE PRE-SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR SETTLING IN NEW CHILDREN

As a pre-school we believe that children benefit most from a pre-school education and care when parents and preschool work together and actively seek to involve parents in the life of the pre-school and their children's education. The following guidelines have been put together by the committee and staff to assist parents effectively settling their child in the pre-school environment.

The staff are available to guide you at all times.

Familiarisation visit

Please arrange with staff a visit with your child prior to their start date. This will be a fun first visit where both you and your child can find out more about pre-school and the child will have no apprehension of being left.

Talking to your child prior to starting

This is a very exciting stage in your child's development as they enter their first "school". Greet it with excitement, encouragement and celebration within the home. The more you talk about pre-school, the environment, friends & staff there and the routine, the less daunting and the more "at home" your child will feel.

The Range of children's Reactions to starting Pre-school

Some children will settle straight away, give you a hug, wave goodbye and then go off and explore what activities are on offer, others will take weeks to feel confident and content for their parents to leave.

A parent is welcome to stay with their child for as long as they feel necessary to settle them in, the staff are there to offer you guidance.

When you leave we encourage:

- To work out a plan with the key person or supervisor.
- When the parent and staff feel ready, the parent should leave for 30 minutes increasing in 10 minute intervals.
- No sneaking off, a child needs to feel secure.
- Explain to your child exactly what is going to happen.
- It is important to be consistent.
- If the child was crying when you left, a member of staff will call you on a prearranged number to reassure you when they have settled. Staff will always tell you the truth.
- A child who has settled (even if for a few minutes) should be rewarded with a sticker or a treat.
- There is often a "honeymoon period" of two weeks, when your child may be unsettled after being quite happy.

Children's comforters

We are happy for your child to bring in a comfort toy, blanket or dummy when they attend pre-school. Once your child has settled we will start to encourage your child to put aside the dummies, as we find this inhibits their speech and language development. Comforters can be kept in your child's bag, on their peg or on the wooden bench and can be accessed by the staff and children when they feel they need some security.

We discourage the use of children holding their comforters and toys during the Rising fives session, as we are trying to encourage them to become more independent before starting school.

If a child is not settling in we suggest that you review your approach with the child's key person and the Supervisor. In the event of staff sickness or being short staffed it may be inappropriate for you to leave a child who is settling and may demand constant attention of a member of staff.

There will be a **parent's evening** offered twice a year, however should you have any concerns or questions you should not hesitate to talk to your child's key person at any stage.

For the time you spend at pre-school settling your child you may find it useful to read through the Pre-School policies file in the kitchen or they can be found on our website at www.combeprechool.co.uk

May we take this opportunity to remind you that all that you see and hear at Pre-School is confidential and should not become common knowledge. If you have any concerns regarding a child you should discuss with either your child's key person or the relevant agency. If you have any concerns about the Pre-School environment, staff or teaching please discuss this with the Chair of the Committee. Your comments will be welcomed, as we would like to work together to make Combe Pre-School a happy, inviting and encouraging environment in which all our children can make friends, grow and flourish.