



Settling In Information

Our aim is to settle your child into the nursery environment as soon as possible.

We believe that we have to work closely together to make the separation process for you and your child as easy as possible. If this is made a positive experience now, it will prepare your child for similar situations in the future. To ease the separation process, at least one of your child's educators will establish a trusting relationship with you and your child.

Our experience is that the following separation programme is successful for most children.

On bringing your child to the nursery, a member of your child's education team will greet you and encourage your child to participate in an activity.

If your child cries, do not be concerned as this is a normal reaction.

It is often better that you leave the nursery and allow our educators to divert your child's attention and begin to bond with your child.

When leaving the nursery, say goodbye to your child and assure him/her that you will be back to collect them.

Because each child is unique, there may be times when a parent needs to remain in the classroom. This decision will be made between the parent and the educator.

The goal will be to have the parent gradually move out of the room. You may sit outside the classroom doorway for a while and then eventually be able to move either to the reception area or a designated area in the nursery.

While in the classroom, it is important that you sit on the designated chair at all times and that you seem absorbed in reading or any other quiet activity that will help you seem unfocused on your child. When children sense that they are not being closely watched, they will usually start to relax and join the activities.

We may have you pick up your child early, in order to help build your child's trust that you will return. Please do not 'sneak' away without saying goodbye to the child.

Say goodbye and then leave quickly and unhesitatingly, without looking back.

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 hallway, or the parents/visitors waiting are until the educator notifies you that all is well.

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

It is normal to go through a period of adjustment during this change in your child's life.

We try to prevent anxiety by anticipating any difficulties that may arise. Even if no difficulties arise, it is good to be prepared. Sometimes, on the first few days of nursery, your child will be so absorbed with the new environment, that there won't even be awareness of being separated from you. Frequently in such cases, the adjustment must be made sometime later – any time from a few days to a few weeks later. This is a normal part of a child's wholesome growth in learning to accept change and being away from home.

Bringing in a special item of mum's or dad's for safekeeping by the child in the classroom sometimes helps.

Bringing a family picture, or baking a special snack to share with the class are also successful ideas.

Please be assured that we will notify you if your child becomes distressed in any way.

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