

Little Oaks Day Nursery

Supporting Transitions Policy

Staff within Little Oaks Day Nursery recognise that children will experience many transitions in their early years and understand that they will need to be supportive to the difficulties they may face during this time. Staff are trained to observe children within their room and recognise key changes in their behaviour. It is vital that parents feel they can discuss any changes in their home environment that may impact on the child to help minimise the effects.

Transitions within the Nursery

Staff are experienced in dealing with transitions children may face within the nursery. When starting nursery children will go through a series of 'Settling in' sessions to help smooth the transition from home to nursery life. During their nursery life they will also face a number of transitions between rooms. To ease these transitions the nursery aims to:-

- Inform parents in advance of any changes to their child's room.
- Arrange short settles within the new room prior to any permanent move to allow them to make bonds with new staff and children and adapt to new surroundings.
- The child's key person will initially introduce the child to the new room and may temporarily move with the child where needed.
- Children will be given opportunities to mix within units where ratios allow for activities such as music time, to allow children time to adapt to new experiences and surroundings with ease.
- Where possible groups of children will be moved together to ease the transition and support friendships within the group.
- Parents will be informed though out the settling process of their child's progress.
- When the child is fully settled it will be discussed with the parent when the permanent move will commence.

Starting School

Moving on to school is a big step for most children. Whilst most children approach this new experience with confidence and are excited about the prospect; for others, the changes may feel daunting and they will be uncertain of what to expect. By working closely with families, staff can contribute to ensuring that children's transfer to school is as positive as possible. Knowing the individual children well and being responsive to their questions and concerns is key and staff can also employ strategies to help children at this exciting time.

Within the nursery setting, staff will aim to introduce as many of the following ideas and activities to help children as possible:

- The nursery will contact the children's receiving schools to invite teachers to visit and meet the children whilst they are still at nursery.

- Request photographs of the teachers, classrooms, playground, cloakrooms, and toilets etc. from the receiving school and create 'My New School' books with the children due to leave.
- Encourage children to talk about their visits to school when they return to nursery.
- Provide a variety of resources including school uniform and other school items such as lunch boxes and book bags to the role play area.
- Introduce reference and storybooks about school.
- Draw attention to aspects of the nursery day that are similar to being at school, for example when the register is taken.
- Ensure children's development records are up-to-date to enable full and accurate completion of transfer documents. Arrange to visit the school to hand over the documents and discuss any relevant information.
- Discuss the child's transfer to school with their family and where applicable with other registered provider the child may attend to ensure a consistent, positive approach is achieved.

Family Breakdowns

When parents separate it is important that all parties act in the best interests of the child. It is vital that parents inform the nursery as soon as possible to allow staff to offer support to the child early on. Parents will also need to be mindful of the parental Responsibility Policy and that the nursery will offer support to the parents as appropriate.

Moving Home/New siblings

As a nursery we are aware of the effects a new sibling can on a child as well as the stress's caused by moving home. Parents will have advanced knowledge of these events and we do ask that this information is shared with us as this will enable the nursery to plan activities to help ease these new experiences or worries they may have e.g. through role play, stories and discussions.

Bereavement

The nursery will be on hand to support any child and their family going through the experience of losing a person close to them. If a parent is struggling they may wish to discuss any additional support they require with the nursery manager such as changes to any sessions or days and optional support can be sought from outside agencies.