

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

This policy sets out our shared vision of parent partnership which has been developed from the staff and parent questionnaire completed in November/December 2014.

We believe that children benefit most from nursery education and care when parents and the nursery are working together in partnership. Parents are a child's first and most enduring educators and when parents and early years settings work together it has a positive impact on a child's development and learning. Parents can build trust in us and develop a shared understanding of how their child learns. We can understand the whole child which ensures we meet their individual needs.

We welcome all parents into the setting and encourage their involvement within nursery life to enable each child to individually flourish.

We believe in caring professional relationships and respect and acknowledge the feelings of the children and their families.

We aim to make sure;

- To support parents as their children's first and most important educators.
- To involve parents in the life of the nursery and their child's education.
- To support parents in their own continuing education and personal development.
- To provide a welcoming environment with approachable practitioners to encourage effective communication.
- We implement the early year's foundation stage framework to encourage positive relationships and parents as partners in our daily practice.

In order to fulfil these aims:

We operate an open door policy and are committed to on-going involvement with parents to improve our knowledge of their children's needs and to support their families in ways such as:

- Access to written information including welcome packs, nursery notice boards, parent partnership noticeboard, emails, newsletters, policies and procedures. Through this we inform all parents about how the nursery is run and welcome any involvement and input into these from parents.
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the nursery, parents may be asked to be involved in the activities which take part within the nursery as well as being offered various questionnaires relating to the nursery and their children's care. We also provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the group by inviting them to help at nursery at any time.

- We inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress through daily communication with parents and key persons, daily care sheets where appropriate and communication books and parent's evenings which are held every term. We also hold parent information evenings from time to time. We may also invite parents to attend staff meetings on occasions such as if a child has a severe allergy and so on.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children either formally or informally and ensure parents have access to their children's written records. Parents who would like to access this information are asked to speak to their key worker who will share their child's Learning Journey.
- We ensure that parents are informed at all stages of the assessment, planning, and review of their children's education through the planning board, the parent evenings and the individual needs.
- Parents are encouraged to share news regarding their child's home life through key persons and "You're a Star" certificates.
- We occasionally invite parents to donate spare clothes, toys, books which may be used within the nursery.
- All parents have access to our written complaints procedure; and questionnaires/parents suggestions clipboard, to openly give suggestions. We ask parents to comment on other important documents such as the ethos and the SEF.
- Our commitment to confidentiality enables parents to feel welcomed and to have the confidence to discuss confidential matters at any time within the nursery.
- Each child is given a key person with whom the child and parents are encouraged to form a bond and parent carer partnership. The role of the child's key person is to develop relationships with children and their families and to keep parents informed about their child's progress at nursery.
- Before a child is registered with us we provide opportunities for parents and child to visit the setting to have a visit and the child and parents are encouraged to undertake settling in sessions to support the transition for parents, carers and child. We work with parents to decide on the best way to help the child to settle in creating an individual approach for children and families.
- We have set terms and conditions for parents joining the nursery to ensure we all know what is expected of us and how we work in partnership together. These are found in our welcome packs and discussed with parents during the induction process.

- We work in partnership with parents and other agencies in meeting individual children's needs.
- We provide parents with information on sources of independent advice and support.
- We provide parents with information about how children learn and information about how to support their learning and development at home.

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