

Settling into Pre-school

At Clever Cloggs we understand how important it is for parents to feel comfortable in leaving their child/children with a childcare setting, we also wish the child/children to feel safe, happy and secure in the absence of their parent too. The emotional welfare and development of our children is paramount to all other areas of development. Research shows that children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious or unhappy. Psychologist Bowlby's attachment theory supports the child to have a significant person whom they feel comfortable and confident to go to for their wants and needs. Our settling in procedures aims to help parents and children to feel comfortable and secure which will help them both benefit from what the pre-school has to offer and with the key person's support the children will be confident that their parents will return at the end of the session/day.

In order to accomplish this, we will:

- Encourage parents/carers to visit the pre-school with their child/children before an admission is planned and will also recommend visiting other settings, hoping they return to us, many do.
- Confirm in writing to parents when their child is starting, their allocated sessions and their named key person and buddy. They are also invited for stay and play sessions six weeks prior to starting if appropriate. Close family are welcome if parents are unable to attend due to work commitments.
- Introduce flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual child/children, we recommend parents stay for several play sessions to build a relationship with their key person and share information to build a clear picture of the child.
- Make clear to the families from the outset that they will be supported in the pre-school for as long as it takes for their child/children to settle. (All children are different, some children take longer than others and become clingy at home when first starting a childcare setting).
- Reassure parents/carers whose children seem to be taking a long time settling into the pre-school and if required review the sessions or times requested, maybe changing or removing sessions until the child is older or the parent feels confident and comfortable to leave their child.
- Encourage parents/carers, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences. However to be supporting and understanding that not every parent has this opportunity.
- A key person will be assigned to support both child and parents when joining our setting. We aim for your key person to remain with you and your child throughout your time with us to provide continuity. In the event of circumstances interrupting this (such as maternity leave) we endeavour to support a smooth transition to the new key person.
- We will provide care and support to the child when needed by using different adults to gain a trusting bond between the child and adult. This may take several visits.