



Settling in and transitions

General Statement

We want all children to feel safe and happy in our pre-school, making friends with their peers and to feel secure and comfortable with staff. We want children to be able to share with their parents afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the pre-school and for parents to have peace of mind that their child is safe, well cared for and having a great time at our pre-school.

In order to accomplish this, we have a settling in procedure.

This policy details the procedure below.

Helping your child settle in

We would like to welcome parents, carers and their child to Turnditch Pre-School. We hope that they get to know us and have a happy and successful time with the pre-school. Children settle into pre-school in lots of different ways. Some children will confidently come into pre-school as soon as they start. Other children may be nervous and anxious about leaving their parent or carer. Most children will be somewhere in between. It is a very normal part of a child's development to be anxious, nervous or angry about starting pre-school, and it is important for parents and carers to be aware of this and try not to worry if their child does experience some difficulties. Ensure that your child sees you being positive even if you are anxious. We recognise and understand that having a child start pre-school is an important milestone for parents and carers and we hope that we can use our experience to support both parent and child.

We require all parents and carers to help their child to settle in, as parents, carers and pre-school staff working closely together is a key part of the child's settling in process.

By working together, children will feel settled, secure and comfortable within their new surroundings, and good relationships can be formed between all parties.

The Settling-in Period

All children are individuals, and there is not a 'one size fits all' approach when deciding how long a settling in period may take. All children who start our pre-school will follow the four stages described in this section. Some children may benefit from a longer settling-in period, needing more time to explore the setting alongside their parent/carers, or taking a more gradual approach before staying for a whole session.

As an organisation that takes a child-centred approach, which values and encourages active participation of parents, our settling-in period is designed to ensure children have a smooth transition into pre-school, and that good relationships can be built between staff and families from the start.

Stage 1: Initial visit with parent/carers

The child spends an hour in the pre-school alongside their parent or carer. Parents/Carers are expected to stay with their child during the whole visit. The purpose of this visit is to help the child gain familiarity and

confidence in the environment alongside the guidance and encouragement of their trusted adult, key person.

Stage 2: Settling-in session for an hour

The child spends an hour in the pre-school. Parents and carers are asked to stay until they are settled, and then parents will leave the pre-school, but remain close-by and reachable by phone.

Stage 3: Settling-in session for a set time agreed between the setting and staff/key person.

Parents should ensure they are reachable by phone during this visit. If a parent or carer would like to talk to someone, or need ideas, or support, or help, then they should talk to a member of our pre-school team. At Turnditch Preschool we are committed to working closely and supportively with parents and carers.

Settling-in for those with SEND

- If a child has been identified as having SEND then the key person/SENCO and parents/carers will need to identify and address potential barriers to settling in e.g. timings of medication and invasive procedures, specific routines and levels of support.
- The settling in period will be tailored to the child's needs.

Settling into preschool will be tailored to the child's, parent's wellbeing and emotional needs. At times when absent for long periods, the settling in process may need to be repeated.