

Peter Pan Playgroup Settling In Policy

We want children to feel happy and safe at our Playgroup. We also want parents to feel happy about leaving their children in the care of other adults outside the family. We hope that afterwards, particularly as children became more confident, that they will share the new experiences and learning activities which they have enjoyed at Playgroup, with their parents, and that parents will value what children produce and take home.

When children are of an age to start at Playgroup we will:

- Arrange a home visit before a child starts with their key person and another member of staff. This will help build a relationship with the family and child; understand the child's individual needs and interests, in a relaxed and informal environment; and facilitate a smooth transition into the setting.
- Encourage parents with their child, to visit our Playgroup and participate in our stay and play facility. Stay and play enables children on our waiting list to accustomise themselves with a part session prior to joining Peter Pan Playgroup.
- Agree, through discussion with the parents, how we will introduce and settle a child into the Playgroup, to ensure that the individual needs of the child and family are being met. This may involve a gradual introduction that may include a child arriving at a later time to the usual start of the session, and, initially, staying for one hour, gradually increasing the duration over a period of time building up to their regular session, which should enable the child to adjust to their new environment at their own pace.
- Introduce new starters into our Playgroup in small numbers over a planned period of time to allow each child the time and support needed to settle.
- Welcome parents at our sessions until they feel that their child has settled in and no longer needs them there.
- Allow a child to bring in from home a 'comfort' toy or blanket to help them settle.
- Be reassuring to parents who are anxious about their child by;
 - telephoning the parent to assure them that their child is happily involved;
 - suggesting that they collect their child earlier than the others;
 - telling the parents what activities their child has enjoyed, as something to be shared later.
- Encourage parents to reassure their children that they will come for them at the end at the end of the session, or ensuring that they know who will come for them.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious or unhappy, they need assurance of the 'pattern' of the day, and what other family members are doing whilst they are at Playgroup.