

Avoncroft Pre-school Nursery

Information for Parents - Starting Nursery

Starting at nursery can be an exciting time for children and their parents, however we are very aware that it can also be quite daunting if it is your first time, or a while since you have had a child at nursery. We would like to make the whole experience a positive one and help you and your child to settle into nursery as easily as possible.

Before your child starts at nursery you will be asked to complete a registration form with all the information we need about your child including any contact numbers, doctor's details etc. He/she will be invited to join in with a nursery session (during the nursery holidays) whilst, accompanied by a parent or carer. This gives you and your child the opportunity to see the types of activities on offer and meet members of staff. You will also have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your child. Also before your child starts nursery he/she will be given a key worker. This key worker will be the point of contact for you and your child. Prior to starting, the key worker will sit with you and fill in the Parents Contribution page of the child's Pathway Profile. This will give information about your child's likes and dislikes, preferred activities and any allergies or intolerances. It is the job of the key worker to help your child settle in to nursery, to keep your child's records up to date, to track the child's progress on their Pathway Profile, complete a two year check if necessary, plan for their next steps and add photos and comments to their individual learning journey.

On your child's first day at nursery he/she should arrive at their allotted time wearing clothes that you don't mind them getting dirty or a nursery sweatshirt/polo shirt which you can order from us priced £13 and £9.50, a named drinks bottle (this can be purchased from us for £1.50), some fruit in a named container or with name written on, a pair of named wellies which you will leave at nursery, a coat and a bag with a change of clothes or pull-ups/wipes if applicable. You will be shown to your child's peg in the cloakroom which will have their name and photo, you will also be shown where everything goes. Your child will be shown their name on the board and how to post it in the box, they will then go into the nursery where staff are ready with activities and toys.

You know your child best so please discuss with staff whether you will be gradually settling your child into nursery and prefer your child to be collected earlier than usual. You can gradually increase your child's time to help them settle if you wish i.e. one day be collected at snack time, next day before lunch, next day after lunch etc. Please let the adult know on the door if you are collecting at a different time. Comforters are fine if they help, we just want you and your child to feel happy and settled at nursery. If you do leave and we are unable to comfort your child, we will ring you and ask you to come back and stay with your child for the rest of the session. We will always ring you if your child is upset and cannot be distracted.

We have an open door policy and are always available at the beginning or end of the session for you to pass on information to us or for us to let you know how your child is getting on. We have more formal parent consultations twice yearly where your child's key worker will discuss your child's progress with you, going through the Pathway Profile and the Learning Journey.

We hope this covers most of the questions or concerns you may have about your child starting at Avoncroft Pre-school nursery, if there is anything else you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact us.