

Partnership working with the primary care giver(s) and other professionals involved



We understand that effective partnerships underpin the successful delivery of the EYFS, ensuring all the children in our care are receiving the highest quality early years provision. We recognise that effective partnership working is challenging and demanding, however we strive to develop a culture of collaboration and to ensure it is an integral part of our work.

Prior to a child starting at the Little Explorers Preschool we gain as much information as possible from parents (via telephone calls, visits and start up forms) and with parental permission, any other settings or professionals involved. We then use this information to put strategies in place to ensure smooth transitions into the setting. Parents are the earliest educators in their child's lives and can be extremely influential in teaching their children what they feel is right and wrong in terms of their behaviour and lifestyle. Therefore it is essential that the Little Explorers staff team work closely with parents from the onset so that we are aware of these expectations and may follow these through into the setting or where we cannot (i.e.: should we feel that this would be detrimental to the child's physical/ emotional wellbeing or should this not fit in with the needs of the other children in our care) then a compromise can be sought.

From then on there is a daily exchange of information between the child's primary carers and the play workers within the setting and external agencies are welcomed into the setting as required. We all work together to promote consistency, assess and monitor the child's development/ needs and go on to develop comprehensive management plans and play plans to enable us to support the child most effectively. The Department for Education recognised that effective partnership working with parents is based on the notion of equality that allows both sides to reach joint decisions when it comes to setting goals for the future and how to achieve these. We encourage parents to play an active role in the creation of the child's learning diaries using the platform to share 'Wow moments'. By listening to the views and beliefs of the children in our care and their families, we believe we can quickly build relationships based on trust and respect.

We offer all families a chance to meet with their keyworker once a term and they also have the opportunity to complete a feedback questionnaire. We use these questionnaires to help review and improve our practice.

With permission from parents/carers we share end of term assessment forms with other settings children may attend.

Communication is key in developing a positive working relationship with parents and other professionals involved. It is particularly important when caring for children who may not have the skills to clearly verbalise what their needs and wishes are. We hold parents/ other setting meetings at least three times a year, in addition to attending any multi agency meetings. Parents can also pop in/email at any time if they have anything they would like to discuss.

When a child leaves we write a transition report to the receiving school/ setting.

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