



## Settling-In Policy

### Introduction

For many children, starting nursery can cause mixed emotions. Some children may be ready to embrace their new journey, yet for some children, it may be their first time away from their parents/guardians. It is important to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of each child as they begin their preschool education.

### Aim

In Carnlough Community Nursery, we aim to ensure that the settling-in process for every child is positive and stress free. We aim to introduce the children and their parents to the nursery and the staff in a relaxed and informal manner. We want each child to feel happy and secure with the staff and the setting, and understand that the settling-in process may take some time for some children.

### Methods

- ⇒ Shortly before the children start nursery, an open-day is held to familiarise them with the staff, the setting and the other children. With parents present, children feel more relaxed and confident, and are encouraged to explore the nursery.
- ⇒ Parents are encouraged to stay with their child for the first session and for further sessions if their child wishes. A child who is unhappy or distressed will not learn, so it is vital for parents/guardians and staff to work together.
- ⇒ When parents/guardians leave, we encourage them to say goodbye and explain that they will be back soon.
- ⇒ Parents will help their child to complete a short 'Settling-In' activity book to provide information about likes/dislikes/friends/family/etc.
- ⇒ We believe a child has settled when he/she happily lets the adult leave, feels confident with nursery adults and approaches them when necessary, and is happy exploring and playing with the activities.
- ⇒ Observations will be made daily for the first week to document how each child has settled and any significant information will also be recorded.
- ⇒ We do not believe that letting a child cry or become distressed will help them to settle sooner - if a child is distressed when the adult leaves, the adult will be contacted and asked to come back and stay until the child is happy for him/her to leave.
- ⇒ A meeting to discuss how each child has settled in to nursery will take place in late October.

Our Settling-In Policy will be reviewed in June 2013.