

Parents and Carers as Partners

We believe that children benefit the most when parents or carers and staff work together in partnership to ensure quality care and learning for the children. The nursery team welcomes parents or carers as partners and this relationship needs to be built on trust and understanding. It is important that we, as carers, are able to support parents in an open and sensitive manner. A two way sharing of information is key to this.

The nursery wishes to ensure parents and carers are part of the care and education team within the nursery.

Our policy is to:

- 1 recognise and support parents or carers as their child's first and most important educators, and to welcome them into the life of the nursery
- 2 generate confidence and encourage parents and carers to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child
- 3 welcome all parents or carers into the nursery
- 4 welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make available a private area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to these mothers
- 5 ensure that all new parents and carers are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures. A detailed parent prospectus will be provided and our full policy documents will be available to parents at all times upon request
- 6 maintain regular contact with parents and carers to help us build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children both by being available on a daily basis to discuss any matters that parents/carers should wish to cover and by providing a contact book between home and the group

- 7 create opportunities for parents and carers to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through activities such as 'open days', 'parents evenings'
- 8 inform parents and carers about nursery activities and events through regularly distributed newsletters and posters in the nursery and toddler unit entrance ways
- 9 operate a key person system involving parents for open discussions and information sharing regarding nursery and home circumstances, and individual needs
- 10 inform parents and carers on a regular basis about their children's progress and involve them in the shared record keeping about their children. Parents' open mornings will be held three times a year. Parents will be consulted with about the times of the meetings to avoid excluding anyone wherever possible
- 11 consider and discuss fully all suggestions from parents and carers concerning the care of their child and the running of the nursery
- 12 provide opportunities for parents and carers to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery in ways which are accessible to parents and carers with basic skills needs, or those for whom English is an additional language
- 13 inform all parents and carers of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure
- 14 provide parents and carers with information about the Birth to Three and the Foundation Stage/Early Years Foundation Stage (pre-school curriculum) and about young children's learning in the nursery and at home
- 15 provide a written contract between the parent(s) and carer(s) and the nursery regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for

payment

- 16 respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and to accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so
- 17 to find out the needs and expectations of parents and carers. These will be obtained through regular feedback via questionnaires, providing a suggestion system and encouraging parents to review working practices. These are then evaluated by the nursery to promote nursery practice, policy and staff development.
- 18 Invite parents to join the nursery group on Activity days, Christmas parties etc