

45. Transitions

At Abbeydale Cottage Nursery we recognise that young children will experience many transitions in their early years; some of these planned and some unplanned. We are sensitive to the impact of such changes to children and this policy sets out the ways in which we support children going through these transitions.

Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Moving between different rooms within the nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- Death of a family member or close friend
- Death of a family pet.

Staff are trained to observe their key children and to be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child so staff can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's behaviour.

Starting nursery

We recognise that starting nursery may be difficult for some children and their families. We have a settling in policy to support the child and their family.

Transitions – Drop off and pick up

Also see Arrival and Departure Policy (59)

Moving rooms procedure

When a child reaches the appropriate age to move to a different room in the nursery, we follow the process set out below and work with parents to ensure this is a seamless process in which the child is fully supported at all stages.

As a result of Covid restrictions we have found that children have settled more easily when moving straight across to their new room on a given date (usually from the first of the month). Our new policy for room transitions will therefore be as follows:

- Parents will be given their child's All About Me form to complete and return with updated relevant information before the room move (approximately 2 weeks before).
- The key worker will discuss and handover all relevant information on the child with the new keyworker.
- Parents will be notified of the name of the new key worker who will introduce themselves before the transition. Photographs of staff and the new room will be sent in advance on Family for parents to share with their child.



- The new keyworker will share photographs of the staff and the new room before the transition for parents to share with their child. Similar photographs are available to look at on the website (under development June 2021).
- If a child requires more support with the transition, this will be discussed between the key person, parent, manager, and room leader of the new room to agree how and when this will happen.

Starting school or moving childcare providers

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious or distressed. We will do all we can to facilitate a smooth move and minimise any potential stresses. This following process relates to children going to school. However wherever possible, we will adapt this process to support children moving to another childcare provider e.g. childminder or another nursery.

- We provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of all the schools the children may attend, stories about going to school. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid the transition
- We invite school representatives into the nursery to introduce them to the children
- Each key person will talk about the school with their key children who are due to move to school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues to help children overcome these
- We produce a transition report on every child starting school to enable teachers to have a good understanding of every child received. This will include their interests, strengths, and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning.

Family breakdowns

We recognise that when parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. We have a separated family policy that shows how the nursery will act in the best interest of the child.

Moving home and new siblings

We recognise that both these events may have an impact on a child. Normally, parents will have advance notice of these changes and we ask parents to let us know about these events so we can support the child to be prepared. The key person will spend time talking to the child and providing activities that may help the child to act out any worries they have, e.g. through role play, stories, and discussions.

Bereavement

We recognise that this may be a very difficult time for children and their families and have a separate policy on bereavement which we follow to help us offer support to all concerned should this be required.



If parents feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes in their life, we ask that you speak to the nursery manager and the key person to enable this support to be put into place.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>Sept 2015</i>		<i>Annually</i>