



Transition Policy

Aim of the Policy

This policy aims to ensure that Peter Rabbit Nursery makes any transition as easy and enjoyable as possible for parents and children.

Children experience many transitions in their early years and the nursery team are sensitive to the difficulty children may have whilst going through these transitions.

Types of transitions that young children may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Moving between areas of nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Changes in home environment such as family breakdowns, new siblings, moving home, death of a family member or a pet.

Supporting Transitions in the Nursery

The nursery will support all children with any transitions they may be encountering. The nursery team will be sensitive to any changes in the children's behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes at that might be happening at home, as that might have an impact on their child.

Transition from home to nursery (settling in policy)

At Peter Rabbit Nursery, we realise that separation from a child can be an emotional and a difficult transition and we work very hard to ensure that the experience is as smooth as we can possibly make it, and children settle happily. We appreciate that the parents know their child far better than we do; together we can work out the best way to settle them at nursery.

We provide settling sessions before your child's start date to help the transition into the nursery environment. Settling in sessions are tailored to child's individual needs, we will work together with the parent or carer to plan the settling in process. This is also a good opportunity for your child's key person to build a relationship with the parent/carer and child and find out any important information there is to know.

We understand that some parents like to take a few moments to say goodbye to their child and we respect that. We do however encourage that once they have said goodbye that they leave promptly as any delay prolongs the moment of separation.

Parents will receive a telephone call during the first session that the child spends with us to inform them of their progress. No child will ever be allowed to get unduly distressed; should

this happen the parent would be contacted, and we would recommend that the child is collected, and a new attempt is made at the child's next session.

We recommend that children are collected on time, late collection can make a child feel anxious and unsettled.

The nursery will share information with parents about how children are settling, what activities they enjoy, and new friendship being made. This will be communicated verbally at pick up, a phone call or message during the child's session time or on Tapestry, an online learning journal of your child.

Other early years providers

Where children are attending other early years settings or are cared for by a childminder, we will work with them to share relevant information about the children's development. This is usually done by sharing a transition book, which is transported to each setting in the child's bag. Each provider writes the child's interests, strength, weaknesses and next step in the book to provide continuity between settings. Where a child is brought to nursery or collected from nursery by a childminder, we will ensure that key information is being provided to the child's parent by providing information directly to the parent via email, telephone or Tapestry.

Family breakdowns

At Peter Rabbit Nursery we recognise that when parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. The key person will work closely with the parents to build close relationships which will support the child's/children's emotional wellbeing and report any significant changes in behaviour to the parent. If the family would like additional support, the nursery is able to signpost them to relevant services and organisations.

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.

Transition from nursery to school or another nursery

Starting school is a huge transition and the nursery will do all it can to facilitate a smooth move. We have a variety of methods that support this:

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. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept of school.

Peter Rabbit Nursery will invite school representatives into the nursery to introduce them to the children.

Staff will initiate conversations with children who are due to move to school. Discussions might include what they are excited about or what children are worried about, colours of their school uniform, the differences and similarities between nursery and school. We talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues enabling children to overcome any fears they have.

There will be a Graduation Ceremony for school leavers to celebrate their time and achievements at Peter Rabbit Nursery. At this ceremony, your child will be presented with a certificate and you will be emailed a link to download their 'Learning Journey' to keep.

We will provide each school with an 'transition' document from the child's Key Person; this will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. A member of staff will be available to speak the school to give any further information the school might require. This will enable teachers to have a good understanding of each child they will receive and will support continuity of care and early learning. Consent to share information will always be gained from the parent or carer first.

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.