



## **Settling into Nursery Policy**

We want children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help, security and friendship and to be able to share with their parents afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the nursery. At Bear Hugs we are wholly committed to each child enjoying a positive experience when starting nursery. We also want parents to feel welcome and involved from the beginning.

In order to accomplish this, we aim to create a partnership with parents in the following ways:

- By creating opportunities for the exchange of information by way of a visit on their own and subsequently with their child before admission where they will meet other starters.
- By ensuring plentiful opportunities for parents to inform the nursery about their child's current achievements and interests. Asking the parent to complete an 'All About Me' booklet giving details of their child's likes/dislikes and present abilities.
- By introducing flexible admission procedures, where appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children.
- By making clear to families from the outset that they will be welcome and supported in the nursery for as long as it takes to settle their child there.
- By reassuring parents whose children seem to be taking a long time settling into the nursery.
- By encouraging parents, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences until their child is confident to attend the whole session.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious or unhappy. Our settling in procedures aim to help parents and children to feel comfortable in the nursery and to ensure that children can benefit from what the group has to offer and feel confident that their parents will return at the end of the session.