



Settling in Policy

Dear Parents,

At Harry Roberts, we put a very strong emphasis on settling-in and ask that all parents and carers allow a week or more for their children to settle in. We want to be sure that each child feels confident about being in nursery and being looked after by her or his key person. We also want parents and carers to be confident about what we offer in nursery.

Children go on to do better in school, if they settle in well.

If you are finding it difficult to settle your child in, then please talk to your key person, or to me.

Children are all different and some take longer than others, but they do all settle in.

Starting nursery is an exciting step, but can also be difficult: we hope to make this successful for you and for your child.

Take care,

Alexandra Law, Headteacher and the staff team.

Settling in with your child

Top 5 tips

1. Give your child plenty of time to get used to nursery-don't rush things.
2. Be available for your child whenever she or he wants you during the settling-in period.
3. Talk to your key person and share your ideas about how you think it is going -remember that you know your child better than anyone else.
4. Try to be as confident as possible in front of your child.
5. Don't worry if your child gets upset or angry- it's a big step to move from home to nursery.

The Settling-in Period

The settling in period is the time when you are here with your child in the Nursery School. It is a time for your child to get to know his or her key person- with the reassurance of having you here too. As the relationship develops, your child will be able to trust that:

- The key person and the other staff in the nursery are able to meet her or his needs.
- They can be helpful, comforting and deal positively with any problems.
- They can provide interesting experiences, which make it worthwhile to come to nursery.
The settling in process gives **you** a chance to check out:
 - What type of nursery this is.
 - How the staff work and support children
 - What kinds of experiences we offer to the children.
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Our aim is to settle children in at their own pace-when children are ready to move away from their parents, we will encourage and support this. We have found that in the long run, this means more settled and happier children- and parents!



The Settling in Process

1. **The home visit** (if you chose to have one). This can be very special for a child- often children remember it for a long time. The home visit helps your child to begin an attachment with the key person on “home territory”. We do our best to visit as many families as we can but unfortunately cannot visit everyone.
2. Your child spending time in the Nursery room with you. During this time, you are available to support your child and to help staff get to know him or her. It is best to be available to your child but not too interesting! We are aware that both you and your child may be feeling stressed, and your child may not be on “best behaviour”. Please don’t worry about this.
3. Your child spending time in the Nursery room whilst you are in another part of the building. It will be up to you and your key person to decide when your child is ready. This might be for quite a short period of time at first, and then for longer stretches of time. When you return we ask that you take them home so that the children learn when you come it is home time.

Please note that is always very important that you say clearly to your child that you will be leaving the nursery room. It’s tempting to nip out when your child is busy, but if your child turns round a few minutes later to find you have unexpectedly gone, she or he may be really upset and reluctant to leave you the next day.

4. Finally, it is for you to judge- with the support of the key person- when your child is ready to be left in the nursery with the staff. Your child might be very sad or angry at the moment of parting, but if the settling in process has gone well she or he will be able to manage this with the support of the key person and other members of staff. If your child continues to be upset after you have gone, please be reassured that we would contact you and would not put your child through an ordeal.

When saying goodbye, some parents find it easiest to set a limit on how long they will stay e.g.: “I’ll read two books with you and then it will be time for me to go.”

Other parents like to have a special ritual like: -

- Going to the carpet area and reading a book.
- Waving goodbye through the window.
- Kiss-cuddle-high five.

It is up to you how you manage this, but please do ask for support or advice if it will be helpful. Please make sure that you always bring your child right into the nursery room and make your key person or another member of staff aware before you leave.

It is not uncommon for a child to settle very well into the nursery, and then unexpectedly a few weeks later to find it difficult to come in. This might be for any one of a variety of reasons, and again we will offer our support or help if you would like it.

You are always welcome to phone and ask how your child is getting on.