

## Starting nursery - the settling in process

Before your child joins the Tiggers we have what's known as a settling in period, when you and your child can come into the nursery and stay for a while together in order to get to know us, the other children and our typical daily nursery routine etc. It is important that your child has spent some time in the nursery before the actual starting day. We like to get to know you as a family better and understand your home routine as this helps us understand what your child is used to at home and will help us settle you all in more easily. You'll get to know your keyperson, meet some of the other children and meet other staff who work here. The purpose of this settling in process is that when your child properly starts nursery both you and they will feel familiar with the environment and us which will put your little one much more at ease. As the child's parent or carer you know what to expect when you bring your child in and you will know what you need to bring to nursery with you each day. Your child will feel like nursery is a familiar place and will happily join in and feel quite settled and confident within their new environment when you leave.

**We normally have 3 settling -in sessions each lasting about an hour.**

**First visit : with parents.**

For the first visit parents should stay with their child for an hour and talk to the staff about routines and anything else they want to share with us or ask us about. While there you will spend some time with your key person and together you can encourage your child to play and explore and get used to the room and meet the other children and staff in the room. Both parent and child will then leave together.

**Second visit : with parents**

If your child is confident and relaxed we will encourage you to leave for about half an hour but if you wish to stay that is fine too.

**Third visit: Parents drop off their child and leave them for 30/45 minutes**

If both parent and child are happy after this third visit we recommend that the child comes to nursery and is dropped off for a full normal session on their next visit. Some children may need more or less visits and we will alter this program dependent on your child's individual needs. We will only commence full nursery care when you are happy to do so.

These visits help to build a relationship between our staff and parents and allow your child to begin to settle and form trusting relationships with staff and in particular their keyworker.

We will ask you to complete a form telling us as much as you can about your child. We will spend some time talking to you about them so that we have a good understanding of their needs prior to their start.