

Parent Partnership Policy (Updated Oct '23)

Little Acorns Pre-School understands that as parent/carers you are the first educators of the children in your care, and we are here to support you in this valuable work in the following ways:

- Shortly before your Child's start date, you will be offered an informal **home visit** (around 15 minutes) by your child's Keyworker and the Setting Manager. We will bring a toy or activity along for your child to borrow and bring back when they start. The visit helps us to understand your child and family and we complete a '**One-Page Child Profile**' with you, enabling the team to quickly get to know your child. We find home visit really help them, you, and us to build strong early relationships.
- New families are invited to attend the Pre-School for a **play session**, for around an hour. Enabling you and your child to meet the other staff and familiarise yourselves with the setting.
- Your Keyworker and the whole team work closely with you whilst settling your child. They are available at the beginning and ends of sessions to exchange information, but if at any time you'd like to talk in more depth, please do not hesitate to let us know. We understand that things happen in life that are really useful for us to know about, and value the sharing of information.
- At the end of your child's first 6 weeks, your Keyworker will write a **Settling in & Progress Report** and you'll be invited to attend a meeting (informal chat!). This is an opportunity for you and your keyworker to exchange information and look at next steps for your child. You will also receive a **questionnaire** which relates specifically to your experience of starting with us.
- You are invited to contribute a selection of photos of the child's family members and pets for us to create a **family collage** with.
- As well as resourcing our developmentally rich **free choice** equipment/areas weekly, staff take it in turns each week to be lead planner, and together with the whole staff team contribute to enhance this provision with a range of **child inspired** and **adult led planned activities**. We put up information about our activities in the foyer and email out information weekly. We also display photographs of the children at play on the board above the sinks.
- From time to time we benefit from parents visiting us to talk about their job, a hobby or family tradition/celebration, or play an instrument. The children gain a great deal from these visits, and so we'd love to hear from you if you'd like to share something!
- As time goes on, your Keyworker stays in communication with you and will give you a summarised **Quarterly Update Report**, and Family Feedback form for you to give us information on your child's current interests/experiences and progress, and on our provision.
- Please know that your comments and feedback are always welcomed and used constructively to help us evaluate and review provision. Staff meet each Thursday afternoon and work extremely closely together to do the best they can for each child and their family.
- An **Activity Email** is sent out weekly to parents/carers outlining some of the learning and development play experiences happening in Pre-School that week, and giving suggestions for extending these at home. In addition, a Pre-School **Newsletter** is sent out half-termly.

- We invite parents/carers to join us for **special events** and occasions such as our Christmas party, to watch the Christmas play, attend our Summer outing or help on visits.

NB;

At Little Acorns we understand that children learn by example and therefore we will always expect staff and parents to show mutual respect for each other by using acceptable language and behaviour. We always strive for positive and successful relationships in the setting and with families and take any unacceptable behaviour seriously, recording it as an incident. Strategies would be put in place so that it does not occur again, however, it may ultimately result in exclusion of the relevant party, at the management team's discretion.