



GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

### Settling in New Children Policy

At Little Jesters we want all children to settle as quickly as possible at our preschool. We want them to feel happy, safe and secure here as well as developing good relationships with staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's wellbeing and their role as active partners with the setting.

Children need to be able to develop positive relationships with adults and other children, and to enjoy the fun and learning opportunities at pre-school and parents need to feel confident that the pre-school is caring for their child and ensuring their well-being.

In order to enable this to happen, we:

- Encourage children and their parent/carer to visit the pre-school for an informal visit before they actually start – this ensures that the child's first day is not in completely unfamiliar surroundings
- Ensure that all relevant information is shared between the child's home and the pre-school – via the completion of the registration form and all about me sheet and also through talking to each other to decide on the best way to support the child in settling in at the pre-school
- Some parents prefer to hand their child over and leave straight away, some stay until their child is settled and happy especially the younger or more unsettled child. The staff will work with you on this and use strategies that you all agree on to assist the settling in procedure
- We will allocate a key person to each child, and staff will be appointed to look after the child and child's carer at the first session
- When it comes to starting pre-school, please remember that all children are different. Some walk in and never look back, some take a lot longer
- If you leave and your child becomes very distressed then we would ring you and ask you to come back and review the way they are settled in
- If you leave your child crying, we will ring you during the session to give you an update on how your child has settled and put your mind at ease
- We will reassure parents/carers whose children seem to be taking a long time to settle into pre-school that this is perfectly normal and that their child will be supported for as long as it takes for them to settle

- Children are welcome to bring in comfort items within the safety restraints of the Pre-school. A link from home to Pre-school is often what the child requires
- We do not believe that leaving a child to cry will help them to settle any quicker. We believe that a child's distress will prevent them from learning and gaining the best from setting

There are some things that you need to be aware of:-

- All children settle differently and we are here to meet the children's needs and yours
- Some children find the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> session more difficult as they are aware that you are going to leave. Some will cry when you leave but be fine after a few minutes. Please feel free to telephone if you are anxious

However if you have any concerns or you just need a little reassurance, you can always talk to a member of staff they are here to support the whole family unit.