

Transitions

At the Nest we recognise that young children will experience many transitions in their early years; some of these are planned and some are unplanned. We are sensitive to the impact of such changes on children and this policy sets out the ways in which we support children going through these transitions.

Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Moving between different rooms within the nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- Death of a family member or close friend
- Death of a family pet.

Staff are trained to observe their key children and to be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child, so staff can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's behaviour.

Starting nursery

We recognise that starting nursery may be difficult for some children and their families. We have a settling-in policy to support the child and their family.

Moving rooms procedure

When a child is ready to move to a different room in the nursery, we follow the process set out below and work with the parents to ensure this is a seamless process in which the child is fully supported at all stages. This may include a handover meeting between the existing key person, new key person and parents and:

- Planning according to the individual needs of the child and when they are ready to move based on age/stage of development
- Enabling the child to spend short sessions in their new room prior to the permanent move, so they feel comfortable in their new surroundings with their key person initially so they have a familiar person present at all times
- Wherever possible, transitioning groups of friends together to enable these friendships to be kept intact and support the children with the peers they know
- Keeping parents informed of all visits and the outcomes of these sessions e.g. through photographs, discussions or diary entries
- Only transitioning the child when they feel settled and ready to move. If a child requires more support this will be discussed between the key person, parent, manager and room leader of the new room to agree how and when this will happen. This may include moving their key person with them on a temporary basis.

Starting school or moving childcare providers

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious about the move. We will do all we can to facilitate a smooth transition and minimise any potential stresses. The following process relates to children going to school.

However, wherever possible, we will adapt this process to support children moving to another childcare provider e.g. childminder or another nursery.

- We provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role-play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of all the schools the children may attend and of the teachers. This helps the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid the transition
- Build relationships with local schools where possible throughout the year and invite them to key events or we will attend key events, e.g. nativity and sports day
- We invite school representatives into the nursery, where possible or invite them to talk via online platforms such as Zoom so they have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the children
- Where possible, we use other ways to support the transition to school, e.g. inviting previous children from the nursery who have moved on to school to come back and talk to the children about their school experiences
- Where possible we plan visits to the school with the key person. Each key person will talk about the school with their key children who are due to move to school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues to help children overcome these
- We produce a comprehensive report on every child leaving the setting and with parental permission will share this with the school to enable teachers to have a good understanding of every child received. This will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning
- With parental permission around school allocation day we may share details of the schools children are going to so parents/carers can see which children may be going to the same school. This can offer some reassurance for the children to know that they are moving with some familiar peers.

Other early years providers

Where children are attending other early years settings or are cared for by a childminder we will work with them to share relevant information about children's development. Where a child is brought to nursery or collected from nursery by a childminder we will ensure that key information is being provided to the child's parent by providing the information directly to the parent via email, video call or telephone.

Family breakdowns

We recognise that when parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. We have a separated families' policy that shows how the nursery will act in the best interests of the child.


Moving home and new siblings

We recognise that both these events may have an impact on a child. Normally, parents will have advance notice of these changes and we ask parents to let us know about these events so we can support the child to be prepared. The key person will spend time talking to the child and providing activities that may help the child to act out any worries they have, e.g. through role-play, stories and discussions.

Bereavement

We recognise that this may be a very difficult time for children and their families and have a separate policy on bereavement, which we follow to help us offer support to all concerned should this be required.

If parents feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes/transitions in their life, we ask that you speak to the nursery manager and the key person to enable this effective support to be put into place.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
01/05/2026		01/05/2027