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Settling into Playgroup Policy and Practice

We want children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents/carers; to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with their parents/carers afterwards the new learning experiences enjoyed in the Playgroup.

In order to accomplish this, we will:

- Encourage parents/carers to visit the Playgroup with their children during the weeks before their admission is planned.
- Ask parents/carers to fill in a “Getting to Know You and Your Child” document so that Playgroup staff have some knowledge about each child before they start.
- Introduce flexible admission procedures, if appropriate, to meet the needs of individual families and children.
- Make clear to families from the outset that they will be supported in the Playgroup for as long as it takes to settle their child.
- Continue to reassure parents/carers whose children seem to be taking a long time settling into the Playgroup.
- Introduce new families into the group on a staggered basis, for example two new children a day for a week rather than 10 new children all at once.
- Encourage parents/carers, where appropriate, to separate from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences.

Children cannot play or learn successfully if they are anxious and unhappy. Our settling procedures aim to help parents/carers and to assist them in helping their children to feel comfortable and confident in the Playgroup, in order to benefit from what it has to offer, and to be confident that their parents/carers will return at the end of the session/day.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Playgroup held on

Signed on behalf of the Playgroup

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