



## Parental involvement

### Policy statement

We believe that children benefit most from early years education and care when parents and settings work together in partnership.

Our aim is to support parents as their children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of the setting.

Some parents are less well represented in early years settings; these include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives as well as working parents. In carrying out the following procedures, we will ensure all parents are included.

When we refer to 'parents' we mean both mothers and fathers; these include both natural or birth parents as well as stepparents and parents who do not live with their children but have contact with them and play a part in their lives.

'Parents' also includes same sex parents as well as foster parents.

'Parental responsibility' is *all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property.*

### Procedures

- We ensure ongoing dialogue with parents at 'handovers' and through the use of the children's daily diaries to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.
- We inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies through access to written information and through regular informal communication. We check to ensure parents understand the information that is given to them.
- We inform all parents on a regular basis about their children's progress.
- We involve parents in the shared record keeping about their children - either formally or informally - and ensure parents have access to their children's written developmental records.
- We consult with parents about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone.
- We welcome the contributions of parents; in whatever form these may take.
- We inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, complaints or suggestions and check to ensure these are understood. All parents have access to our written complaint's procedure.
- We provide opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum offered in the setting and about young children's learning, in the setting and at home.

In compliance with the Welfare Requirements, the following documentation is in place:

- Admissions policy.
- Complaints procedure.
- Record of complaints.

- Developmental records of children.

### **A Healthy Partnership**

To help us keep our nursery a safe environment and reduce the risk of infection, parents must follow these few simple steps:

- A child with sickness and/or diarrhoea should not return to nursery until a period of 48 hours clear or illness has passed. If a child becomes sick in nursery, parents will be contacted immediately.
- Conjunctivitis is extremely contagious and any child suffering from this complaint should be treated immediately and not return to nursery until all redness and puss has subsided.
- Spots/rashes should have their cause diagnosed by the doctor and any necessary incubation period enforced before the child returns to the nursery. Please inform the nursery immediately of any such illnesses.

**All information supplied will be treated confidentially.**

*All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner, if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.*

