



Settling In Policy



Aim

Starting **Little Jesters** can be a big step for both the child and their Parent/Carer, therefore we wish to support the family by offering a settling in period.

Children develop in individual ways and at varying rates and this is why we offer a settling in procedure that is flexible in order to meet those needs. At **Little Jesters**, every interaction is based on caring professional relationships and respectful acknowledgement of the feelings of the children and their families. The **Little Jesters** staff work together with the family to provide the best care and learning environment for all children. It is very important to us that each child feels safe and secure when in the care of the **Little Jesters** staff. We recognise that leaving a child for possibly the first time, can be difficult for Parents/Carers and so we encourage them to come into **Little Jesters** and spend some time together with their child before s/he is taken into the care of the **Little Jesters** team.

For the child to have the best possible care it is vital for Parents/Carers to share with the staff, their knowledge about their child's individual needs, likes, dislikes and routine. This can be done on the registration forms and verbally when the family is introduced to the **Little Jesters** Team on our open days. We want parents to have confidence in both their child's well-being and in their role as active partners within the Pre-School. Children feel a real sense of belonging in the setting when their Parents/Carers are also involved in it.

Key Person

Every child attending **Little Jesters** will be allocated a Key Person. This member of staff will have special responsibilities for working with a small number of children helping them with next steps and completing their assessments. The Key Person will have an in depth knowledge of each child and it is with her/him that sharing of information is most important.

The Key Person and our team will help the child to become familiar with the setting and to feel confident and safe within it. Our staff have a huge role to play with each child at our setting and will encourage your child to explore and learn, celebrate successes and build confidence every day ensuring the whole need of the child is met.

The Key Person will be responsible for keeping each child's learning journal, observation and assessment information as well as for writing reports on the child.

Settling in Sessions

The following is a guideline for settling in, however we understand that children are individuals and therefore we are flexible in the way Parents/Carers wish to introduce their child to **Little Jesters**.

First Visit

The first visit will last for around one hour with the Parent/Carer accompanying the child throughout this time. There will be an opportunity to meet the staff team, have a play and get a feel for the environment. Parent/Carers are encouraged to talk to the **Little Jesters** staff as this enables your child to see there is a relationship developing between the adults. Please bring a favourite toy or comfort object for your child to have if you feel that it will help. At the end of this first session Parents/Carers & child will leave together.



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Second Visit

On the second visit, the child will have a morning session (9am- 11:30). Parent/Carers are asked to return at 11:30 before the end of the session to meet a member of staff to discuss how their session went. This is also a good opportunity to make sure that all the child's documents and contacts are up to date and current. It is then that Parent/Carers will also be advised if the child needs a longer settling in period or if the next visit should be normal session times and arrangements.

Please note that the above settling in procedures are only a guide as all children have different needs.

It is important to us that all Parents/Carers are secure in the knowledge that all staff will support each child and family when joining **Little Jesters** and that **Little Jesters** and Parents/Carers are a partnership of mutual respect and shared goals.

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

To be reviewed: Autumn 2026