

# Transitions



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

Some examples of transitions that young children may experience are:

- Starting 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.

## **Starting school or moving childcare providers**

Starting school is an important transition and some children may feel anxious or distressed. We will do all we can to facilitate a smooth move and minimise any potential stresses. This 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.

- The majority of our children transfer to Coalway Infants School and we have strong transition links with them including opportunities to use the school site and visit the school throughout their time at nursery, transition days, visits from the staff, links with friends and/or siblings who attend the school
- We recognise that not all of our children will transfer to the school on site and we will work closely with other schools to try to ensure a smooth transition for all children who attend our setting – we will invite representatives from these schools to visit our nursery and meet the children
- We provide a variety of resources that relate and activities that relate to starting school, such as role play, stories, and will encourage the children to talk about any concerns they might have

- We avoid using language that might imply concerns for the children in respect of starting school and discourage parents from doing this also, for example, stating that certain behaviour will be disapproved of in school
- 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 transition report on every child starting 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.

### **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 or telephone.

### **Family breakdowns**

We recognise that when parents separate it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. We have a Separated Family policy that shows how the nursery will act in the best interest 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 in their life, we ask that they speak to the nursery manager and the key person to enable this support to be put into place.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed (nursery manager)</b>		
	<b>Signed (Chair or Committee)</b>		
<b>Date for review</b>		<b>Date for review</b>	
<b>Date for review</b>		<b>Date for review</b>	