

8. PREPARING YOUR CHILD TO START

8.1 First Day



The first day is a big day for any child, and often for the parents too! We aim to settle your child into Pre-School as quickly as possible and ensure that he/she and you feel happy in the Pre-School environment. We stagger new children's start dates so that we only have one new child per session. This allows us to spend sufficient time with both them and you. The date of your child's first day will be according to their start date letter.

You will be invited to a New Starter Parents Evening where you will have a series of meetings and talks with members of the Pre-School team.

On the first day we ask you, parent or carer, to come along 15 minutes after the usual session start time. This enables us to have the rest of the children settled in already. Your child will then be introduced to the Pre-School setting and the other children.

8.2 Settling In



The first few days or even weeks can be hard for some children, and whilst some children can settle in with no problems, others may need a bit of extra help. To those parents whose children find it difficult to say goodbye (they are only little after all) children are allocated a key person who will take care of your child's needs however all staff are very experienced at creating a diversion, waving through windows or giving a little hug to help. We will provide you with a book to create a Comfort Book for your child. In this you can include photos or pictures which your child can enjoy sharing with us. A special teddy or 'blanket' can be helpful at this time for some children.

8.3 What to Wear



We get to do lots of messy things in our Pre-School and it is advisable for your child to wear clothes that won't mind a little bit of paint. Staff are always nearby to help with your child's clothing or visiting the toilet, but please dress them sensibly so they can manage by themselves if possible.

Sun hats and sun cream are essential for the summer as we do try to make the most of our sunny days by getting outside as much as possible. Please apply sun cream before the start of Pre-School as staff will not have time to do all the children. However, should your child be attending a full day session please apply sun cream in the morning and ensure there is a bottle of sun cream in their bag as staff will re-apply it at lunchtime or use longer protection cream.

We have found that boots and open-toed sandals are not safe in the Pre-School so please provide normal shoes. Sensible open-toed sandals such as Clarks are acceptable however.

8. PREPARING YOUR CHILD TO START continued

8.4 What to Bring



All children are required to have a spare set of labelled (pen is fine) clothes - even the older children sometimes spill milk or get their sleeves wet whilst at water play, so please make sure these are available. These should be kept on your child's peg in a named Pre-School bag which are given on your child's first day.

8.5 Toilet Training



Some children will be in trainer pants and occasionally nappies when attending Pre-School. We are very flexible in our approach to this, however we do ask that toilet training begins at home. We can then supplement this at the Pre-School as and when you and your child feel ready.

Accidents do happen though, so please make sure that your child has a spare set of clothes, plus nappies or trainer pants and wipes if relevant, in their bag at all times. During toilet training, please supply several sets of spare clothes.