

Settling in new children – Garden Room

At Melbourn Playgroup we believe that the settling in process is important to help children to feel secure thus enabling them to thrive whilst they are at playgroup. Different children will have different needs and previous experiences so this needs to be taken into account; therefore, we believe a 'one size fits all' approach does not work. The primary aim of the settling in process is to allow children to form a relationship and bond with their key person, which enables the child to feel safer and more secure.

In order to make settling as successful as possible at Melbourn Playgroup we will learn as much as we can about the child so that we can support the child in the best way. This will be achieved by talking to parent/carers, all about me forms and home visits.

We have a simple framework for settling in but we are happy to adapt this for the needs of each child. The child will only move onto the next stage when parents/carers along with the key person feel that the child is ready to do so.

During the child's first few weeks, we will arrange a home visit with the child's key person.

First session	Stay and Play. Parent/carer and child visit together and stay for 45 minutes.
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After this session if the child is ready they can come to their next session and the parent/carer can leave them to stay.

If a child finds it difficult to settle, we will plan with both the parent/carer and the child's key person on how to move forwards. Options might be to have more stay and play sessions or start with shorter sessions and build up. If a child becomes upset during a session, we will let the parent/carer know and ask for them to collect their child earlier if it is felt this would benefit the child.

If a child is fully settled, we ask that parent/carers say goodbye at the outside door and their child comes in with a member of staff. If a child finds it difficult to come in by themselves or they are

distressed we are happy for parent/carers to bring them in initially and then we can plan how to work towards the child, coming in independently e.g. their child's key person can greet them at the door and bring them in.

We understand that for parent/carers leaving their child at a new setting can be an anxious and worrying experience particularly if this is the first time, they have left their child. We will do our best to support parent/carers and work in partnership with them. We also know that children can be quick to pick up anxiety signals from nervous parent/carers through body language so will support parents with this if needed.