

# SETTLING IN AT PRE-SCHOOL

## Statement of Intent

We want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in the Pre-school and to feel secure and comfortable with staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's well being and their role as active partners with the Pre-school.

## Aim

We want the children to benefit from what it has to offer and to be confident that their parents will return at the end of a session. To achieve this we aim to make the Pre-school a welcome place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

## Methods

- We introduce families into the group on a staggered basis, for example two new children a day for a week rather than ten new children at once;
- Reassure parents whose children seem to be taking a long time to settle into the Pre-school;
- Encourage parents, where necessary, to separate from their child for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences;
- Before a child starts to attend the Pre-school, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information (including our prospectus and policies), displays about pre-school activities, information days and evenings and individual meetings with parents.
- During the half-term before a child is enrolled, we provide opportunities for the child and his/her parents to visit the Pre-school.
- When a child starts to attend, we work with his/her parents to decide on the best way to help the child to settle into the Pre-school.
- We allocate a key person to each child and his/her family, before she/he starts to attend; if possible, the key person welcomes and looks after the child and his/her parents at the child's first session.
- We use pre-start visits and the first session at which a child attends to explain and complete with his/her parents the child's registration records.
- Within the first four weeks of starting we discuss and work with the child's parents to create their child's records.
- We have an updated website which parents can access at [www.marlowbottompreschool.org.uk](http://www.marlowbottompreschool.org.uk)

