

## Nursery Days/Kids Days Key person



Nursery Days takes the role of the key person very seriously and is an area we pride ourselves on.

One of the hardest decisions parents have to make is whether or not to leave their child in the care of someone else. Children form close attachments to their parents/carers and leaving them in the care of another person can be distressing for both the child and the parent.

The keyperson system has been put into place to help ease the child's transition from home to nursery, but also to give them a 'significant other' at all times when they are in attendance of nursery.

The keyperson works alongside the parent/carer, because as the first and main carer the parent/carer knows the most about their child. Within a nursery environment it is of paramount importance that a child has another significant person within the setting with whom they feel safe and secure, as someone who not only takes care of their physical needs but who can take care of their emotional needs too.

During settling in sessions the child will witness their parent/carer and new keyperson meeting for the first time and sharing information. Upon starting nursery life the child and key person will form a close relationship, and through communicating verbally or through the daily diary the parent/carer and the keyperson will also build a relationship, because without communication with the parent/carer the keyperson role does not exist. The keyperson will also undertake observations on the child to track their progress and ensure that activities are included in the daily planning that are specific to the likes and dislikes of the individual child. As with all the information we hold, it is treated confidentially and the parent is free to view or discuss it with their key person at any time.

A 'buddy system' is in place to give both the parent/carer, and more importantly, the child, a keyperson in the absence of their usual keyperson. This will help to give the child a sense of security.

Upon changing rooms or 'moving-up' in the nursery the child's first key person will take them for visits to their new room and introduce them to their new key person. They will also introduce the new key person to the parent and the process begins again.

When children have security and a 'significant other' within their environment, life becomes easier for everyone and they can start to have fun, play and explore and the parent can go about their day safe in the knowledge that their child is happy and cared for.

This policy links to:

Positive Relationships – Parents as Partners – EYFS  
Positive Relationships – Key person – EYFS  
Positive Relationships – Supporting Learning – EYFS  
Positive Relationships – Respecting Each Other – EYFS  
Enabling Environments – Supporting Every Child – EYFS  
Organisation – The welfare requirements – EYFS  
Interaction – ECERS  
Interaction – ITERS  
Every child matters – Positive contribution

This policy was written on 20/12/07

By Melanie Willmore

Signed

This policy is to be reviewed 20/12/08 -20/12/09

