



Parents and Carers as Partners Policy



The
Little Green Frog
Nursery & Pre-School

We believe that children benefit the most when parents and carers and staff work together in partnership to ensure quality care and learning for the children. The nursery team welcomes parents and carers as partners and this relationship needs to be built on trust and understanding. It is important that we, as professionals, are able to support parents and carers in an open and sensitive manner. A two way sharing of information is key to this.

The car bear (key person) system supports engagement with parents and carers. We ask parents and carers to contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry and they are kept informed about their children's progress. We encourage parents and carers to support and share information about their children's learning and development at home and the key person seeks to engage them in guiding their child's development at home too. The key person system ensures all practitioners use effective, targeted strategies and interventions to support learning that matches children's individual needs.

Our policy is to:

- Recognise and support parents and carers as their child's first and most important educators and to welcome them into the life of the nursery
- Generate confidence and encourage parents and carers to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child
- Welcome all parents and carers into the nursery at any time and provide an area where parents and carers can speak confidentially with us as required
- Welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make available a private area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers
- Ensure nursery documentation and communications are provided in different and accessible formats to suit each parent's needs.
- Ensure that all parents and carers are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures. Our full policy documents will be available to parents and carers at all times on the nursery website.
- Maintain regular contact with parents and carers to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children
- Support parents and carers in their own continuing education and personal development including helping them to develop their parenting skills and inform them of relevant conferences, workshops and training, where required
- Create opportunities for parents and carers to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as open days, parents and carers' evenings.





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- Inform parents and carers about nursery activities and events through regularly distributed newsletters, emails and text messages.

- Operate a key person system to enable parents and carers to establish a close, working relationship with a named practitioner and to support two-way information sharing about each child's individual needs both in nursery and at home. Parents and carers are given the name of the key person of their child and their role when the child starts and updates as they transition through the setting

- Inform parents and carers on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in shared record keeping. Parents and carers' evenings are held once a year. The nursery consults with parents and carers about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone

- Actively encourage parents and carers to contribute to children's learning through sharing observations, interests and experiences from home. This may be verbally, sharing photographs or in written form

- Agree the best communication method with parents and carers, e.g. email, face-to-face, telephone and share information about the child's day, e.g. food eaten, activities, sleep times etc.

- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents and carers concerning the care and early learning of their child and nursery operation

- Provide opportunities and support for all parents and carers to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery including signposting to relevant services, agencies and training opportunities

- Share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, young children's learning in the nursery, how parents and carers can further support learning at home and where they can access further information

- Provide a written contract between the parent(s) and the nursery regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for payment

- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so

- Inform parents and carers how the nursery supports children with special educational needs and disabilities

- Find out the needs and expectations of parents and carers. We will do this through regular feedback via questionnaires, suggestion system and encouraging parents and carers to review working practices. We will evaluate any responses and publish these for parents and carers with an action plan to inform future, policy and staff development.

