

Parkside Playgroup

Transition (including bereavement and parental separation) Policy Statement

Our playgroup recognises that children experience many transitions in their early years, some planned, some unplanned and our practitioners are sensitive to the difficulties children may have whilst going through these transitions. Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting at or moving to a new setting
- Starting School
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- Death of a family member or family pet.

Practitioners are trained to observe their key children and as such will be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child so that practitioners can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's character.

Procedures

The staff will support children in the playgroup with any transitions they may be encountering. If the transition relates to the child starting at the playgroup we will follow our settling in policy.

Starting school is a huge transition and the playgroup will do all it can to facilitate a smooth move.

We have a variety of methods that support this:

- We welcome school representatives into the nursery/school to introduce them to the children.
- Practitioners will initiate conversations with the children, who are due to move to school, about the school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues enabling these to be overcome.
- The playgroup will ensure a comprehensive report is produced on each child starting school to enable teachers to have a good understanding of each child received. This will include their interests, strengths and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will support continuity of care and early learning.

When parents separate it is a difficult situation for all concerned and our setting understands that emotions can run high.

- We will recognise the sensitivity of the situation and maintain the level of confidentiality requested by parents as far as possible.
- In all cases, we will respect any legal requirements that have been entered into by the parents or required by the courts. The playgroup will not seek to make judgements about individual circumstances but will treat both parents equally unless there is a specific ruling in existence. Members of staff will never pass judgement on either parent to the child.

- In cases where only one parent has signed the parent contract/acceptance of a place, the other parent will not automatically be consulted or receive information relating to their son/daughter. Should the non-contracting parent seek information or access to his/her daughter, the playgroup will always consider the expressed wishes of the contracting parent, and these will be a key factor in determining our actions, subject always to the welfare and interests of the child. For the avoidance of doubt, Parkside Playgroup will seek written confirmation from the contracting parent of their consent to us providing information and access.
- Apart from specific situations as mentioned above, we will make every effort to ensure that access to both parents is maintained. Both parents will be welcome at parent/keyworker consultations provided both of them are signatories to the parent contract.

Our Playgroup recognises that children and their families may experience grief and loss of close family members or friends whilst with us in the playgroup. We understand that this is not only a difficult time for families but it may also be a confusing time for young children, especially if they have little or no understanding of why their parents are upset and why this person is no longer around.

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member or close friend that the parents inform the playgroup as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and helps us to understand a potential change in behaviour of a child who may be grieving themselves
- The key person and/or the manager will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the playgroup. This may be an informal discussion or a meeting away from the child to help calm a potentially upsetting situation
- The child may need extra support or attention during this difficult time and the playgroup will ensure that they are fully supported by the most appropriate member of staff on duty, preferably the child's key person
- We will be flexible wherever possible to adapt the sessions the child and family may need during this time
- The death of family pets is also an area that children and their families may need support with. We will follow the above procedure wherever it is appropriate to support the child to understand their loss and support their emotions through this time.

Moving home and the arrival of new siblings are normally two events that parents will have advance notice of, and we ask that parents let us know about these events so we can support the child to be ready for this. We will spend time talking to the child and providing activities that may help the child to act out any worries they have, e.g. through role play, stories and discussions.

If parents feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes in their life, we ask that you speak to the manager and the key person to enable this support to be put into place.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Parkside Playgroup

Held on

Sept 2021

Date to be reviewed

Sept 2022

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Brenda Henrick

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Chairperson