



Red Dragon Pre-School

Policies and Procedures

The role of the key person and settling-in

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4.1 The role of the key person and settling-in

Policy statement

We believe that children settle best when they have a key person to relate to, who knows them and their parents well, and who can meet their individual needs. Research shows that a key person approach benefits the child, the parents, the staff and the setting by providing secure relationships in which children thrive, parents have confidence, staff are committed and the setting is a happy and dedicated place to attend or work in.

We want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in the setting 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 setting.

We aim to make the setting a welcoming place where children settle quickly and easily because consideration has been given to the individual needs and circumstances of children and their families.

The key person role is set out in the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Each setting must assign a key person for each child. The Role of the key person at Red Dragon Pre-School is crucial; they have special responsibilities for working with small groups of children, ensuring they feel safe and cared for.

The procedures set out a model for developing a key person approach that promotes effective and positive relationships for children who are in settings.

Procedures

We allocate a key person to the child before they start the setting. The key person is responsible for supporting the child to become familiar within their new surroundings including both indoors and outdoors, learning about and meeting the child's individual needs.

- The Key person must allow time to talk to the child's parent / carer about Red Dragon Pre-School's routine and any relevant policies and procedures.
- The key person is responsible for the induction of the family and for settling the child into our setting.
- The key person offers unconditional regard for the child and is non-judgemental.
- The key person works with the parent to plan and deliver a personalised plan for the child's well-being, care and learning.
- The key person acts as the key contact for the parents and has links with other carers involved with the child, such as a child-minder, and co-ordinates the sharing of appropriate information about the child's development with those carers.

- The key person is responsible for developmental records and for sharing information on a regular basis with the child's parents to keep those records up-to-date, reflecting the full picture of the child in our setting and at home.
- The key person encourages positive relationships between children in her/his key group, spending time with them as a group each day.
- We promote the role of the key person as the child's primary carer at Red Dragon Pre-School, and as the basis for establishing relationships with other staff and children.

Settling-in

Before a child starts to attend Red Dragon Pre-School, we use a variety of ways to provide his/her parents with information. These include written information including our prospectus and policies; a short hand version is displayed for the parent's convenience. However, parents are freely able to look at the full policies and procedures in depth. Displays which show our daily routine, planning and parents information are readily on show within the setting. Furthermore, we hold individual parents meetings which include the progress check at two requirement from the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition, we use an online learning journey through the use of Tapestry which staff will support access with.

- During the term before a child is due to start, we provide opportunities for the child and his/her parents to visit the setting.
- We allocate a key person to each child and his/her family before she/he starts to attend; the key person welcomes and looks after the child and his/her parents at the child's first session and during the settling-in process.
- 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.
- When a child starts to attend, we explain the process of settling-in with his/her parents and jointly decide on the best way to help the child to settle into the setting.
- We have an expectation that the parent, carer or close relative, will stay for most of the session during the first week, gradually taking time away from their child, increasing this as and when the child is able to cope.
- Younger children will take longer to settle in, as will children who have not previously spent time away from home. Children who have had a period of absence may also need their parent to be on hand to re-settle them.
- We judge a child to be settled when they have formed a relationship with their key person; for example, the child looks for the key person when he/she arrives, goes to them for comfort and seems pleased to be with them. The child is also familiar with where things are and is pleased to see other children and participate in activities.
- When parents leave, we ask them to say goodbye to their child and explain that they will be coming back, and when.
- We recognise that some children will settle more readily than others but that some children who appear to settle rapidly are not ready to be left. We expect

that the parent will honour the commitment to stay for at least the first week, or possibly longer, until their child can stay happily without them.

- We do not believe that leaving a child to cry will help them to settle any quicker. We believe that a child's distress will prevent them from learning and gaining the best from their time at Red Dragon Pre-School.
- We reserve the right not to accept a child into the setting without a parent or carer if the child finds it distressing to be left. This is especially the case with young children.
- Within the first four to six weeks of starting we discuss and work with the child's parents to begin to create their child's record of achievement.

The progress check at age two

The key person carries out the progress check at age two in accordance with any local procedures that are in place and referring to the supporting guidance to the; EYFS A Know How Guide: The EYFS progress check at age two.

The progress check aims to review the child's development and ensures that parents have a clear picture of their child's development.

Within the progress check, the key person will note areas where the child is progressing well and identify areas where progress is less than expected.

The progress check will describe the actions that will be taken by the setting to address any developmental concerns (including working with other professionals where appropriate) as agreed with the parent(s).

The key person will plan activities to meet the child's needs within the setting and will support parents to understand the child's needs in order to enhance their development at home.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Red Dragon Pre-School
Held on	
Date to be reviewed	
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Name of signatory	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	