

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY



Parents/Carers (from here on referred to as "parents") are the first educators of their young children. The aim of our charity is to support their essential work, not to replace it. We aim to form a good relationship with parents so that information regarding their children be it developmental, social, and emotional or health-related, can be exchanged easily and comfortably by staff and parents. We seek to do this in many ways.

1. We will encourage all parents to watch the setting video before entering their child's name on our waiting list.
2. We welcome and encourage a high level of parental engagement and involvement when their child is settling with us – please see the "Settling In" Policy for further detail.
3. We will make all new parents aware of the setting's ethos, policies and who the team are.
4. We encourage parents to share information with us about their child using the "All About Me" form. We also ensure that we have direct time with parents at induction and throughout the child's time with us to "Listen" and share information.
5. We will encourage parents on an individual basis to play an active part in the management of the charity and facilities by giving them the opportunity to become a trustee or volunteer with their skills.
6. We will ensure that all parents have opportunities to contribute from their own skills, knowledge and interests. As skills are required at the setting, we will hope that a parent may be able to contribute their help and request this via posters on the notice boards, Facebook, email newsletter and by direct verbal request.
7. Parents will be kept fully informed about any meetings and special events by maintaining the notice boards, through our newsletters, social media and through verbal communication.
8. We will consult with families about times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone and hold meetings in venues accessible and appropriate for all and utilise video conferencing when appropriate.
9. We will welcome the contributions of parents, whatever form these may take.
10. We will make known to all parents the systems for registering queries, complaints, or suggestions via the website and through direct communication with a team member.
11. We will invite parents to accompany us when we can take children out for community visits.
12. We are keen for parents to experience the setting and how their child accesses play with us. We share play sessions on our secure Parent Facebook page which enables parents to learn from our example.
13. We are keen that parents have opportunity to experience the setting however are mindful of doing this in a way which will not be disruptive to the children's day to day care. We are happy to invite parents to a pre-arranged "Pop-In", often prior to a child goes home. Further to this, at Daisy we will support a minimum of 2 annual "Socials" after 2pm on a Friday. At Rainbow we will support, "Socials" to take place for up to 2 hours in an afternoon, most normally during October and again in the Summer Term. The Socials will enable conversation between parents, between parent and keyperson and will support us to be able to share key messages.
14. Parents are valued in the support they can give in any fundraising events – at these times, their help will be sought to play an active role at the event or to donate goods or monies.
15. Parents are asked to contribute "Wow/Celebration" moments via Eylog or in person as we greet the child at the start of the session.

16. As we work with IT observation and assessment systems, we invite parents to contribute observations and messages from home.
17. Parents will be able to access information about their child's progress at any time as needed or requested. We work to develop a special relationship between the parents and the child's keyperson to enable effective information-sharing and co-working. This is particularly encouraged at the start of sessions.
18. When children have parents/carers who are separated we work to ensure that both parents are kept informed and have every opportunity to become involved in their child's progress whilst with us.
19. We will provide opportunities for parents to learn about the EYFS and how it impacts upon their child through their play. We will achieve this using parent leaflets, through the creation of meaningful displays, via Eylog links, Facebook and email newsletters.
20. We consult with parents, when appropriate to support the revision of our policies. A parental-led trustee sub-group ratifies all policies prior to adoption.
21. We work very closely with parents to ensure that their needs, as well as those of their children, are met as well as possible. We achieve this through close partnership work with the Children's Centre and other professional services.
22. We provide a small counselling service which is accessible to parents to support their wellbeing and that of their child.

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Policy last reviewed on: March 2018.
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Signed: 