Settling in Policy

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When your child is due to start childcare for the first time, this can be a difficult time for both children and parents. There may be anxieties around separations from both parent and child.

At Curious Minds Tiney Home Nursery, I aim to ensure that parents feel just as welcome as the children in my setting. I commit to working in partnership with you to ensure that both you and your child have a great settling-in experience and one that both are happy with the decision to choose me for your childcare. I will do this by:

- Gathering important information from the parents/Guardians in advance
- Getting to know your child through settling sessions (all important for your child to connect with me as their carer)
- Learning all about your child, immediate family and what is important to them
- Any healthcare requirements or specific needs so I can ensure appropriate steps are taken to keep them well and safe

The settling in process takes a period of 2 weeks:

The first week
In the first week together, I ask that you and your child attend the setting together for a few hours each day. This helps the child become familiar with both the setting and routines.

The second week

- As we progress into the second week together, I'll ask for you to leave your child at the setting for short periods of time alone. When you leave your child, I'll invite you to say goodbye, fully explain to them that you will be coming back later, and let them know when you'll be back. i.e. "Mummy will be back after you eat"
- Depending on the child, we'll start with 30 minutes together, and then gradually increase the time across the week to a full session by the end of the week.

Feedback will be given verbally and photos taken and uploaded onto your child's learning journal on the tiney App; this will help to keep you informed and connected to your child's day.

I ask that parents/carers bring their child into nursery continuously during the settling in period as having breaks during this time disrupts the settling in process and sends conflicting messages to a child; this in turn may bring about feelings of being insecure.

Think I would perhaps edit this to say ' If you or your child is having difficulty settling, I am happy to arrange a personalised meeting and discuss which are the next best options to take.

Note: For school pickups I recommend us doing the pick-up/drop off together so that I can introduce myself to the school while I'm with you

Settling in Review

Within the first four to six weeks of starting, I will discuss with you my initial observations of your child. An initial observation form will then be filled out and be given to you to read at home; the initial observation form will then be placed in their Learning Journey and act to help me adequately plan for the needs of your child.

Some children may take longer to settle and become very upset upon parting from their parent/carer, if this is the case with your child, I ask that the child is still left with us so that he/she has an opportunity to form a bond and eventually fully settle.