

Montessori Children's House

Transition Policy

January 2018

Once we have offered your child a place at the Montessori Children's House we want to ensure that they have the best possible transition from their home environment/ current childcare provision into this one pre-school setting. A minimum of three mornings per week rising to five, ensures routine, continuity and security for the child so that they quickly gain confidence and a sense of belonging in the school community. It is only from this basis that a child can learn, progress and form relationships. Montessori is a progressive learning environment which we want all the children to be able to take advantage of.

The term before your child is due to begin at the Children's House we will arrange for them to spend one or two short mornings with us either accompanied by a parent/carer or if they are happy, they may stay unaccompanied. This is to familiarise themselves with the environment, the staff and some of the children. This will give meaning to their understanding of "going to the Children's House."

When it is time to start for real, explain to your child what will happen, being very clear that this is a place for children and so you will leave and come back. We suggest bringing your child about 9.15am for the first few mornings. This gives the experienced children time to arrive and settle down, providing a calmer environment for your child to enter into. For the first few mornings please feel free to come in, help your child find their peg, change into slippers, and hang up their coat. Then make a quick exit. Thereafter explain to your child that you will leave them at the door and the teachers will help them from that point. This encourages an easier, quicker transition and ultimately independence. Please rest assured that your child will be well cared for, helped as much as is needed in all aspects of learning and self-care, and if there is a real problem we will phone you.

We also suggest that for the first week the new children have a shorter morning and are picked up at 11.45am, just before lunch. This avoids them becoming over-tired as they have so many new things to absorb and process. If you prefer them to stay for lunch we will accommodate that.

All the children should have slippers, wellies, outdoor clothing and a change of clothes in a bag. These should be named and can be left in school. They will also need a packed lunch each day. We will provide snack every morning and if you have indicated allergies or special dietary requirements on their registration forms, we will take account of that and provide something suitable. Snack usually consists of bread or oatcakes, fruit or vegetables, and cheese or houmous.

In the initial settling-in period we will endeavour to chat with you after each session. However if this is not possible for one reason or another, please know that if we have any concerns at all, we will make a point of speaking with you. Do not hesitate to come and ask

us anything or let us know something you believe is important. It is vital that we have open streams of communication. We will arrange a formal meeting with you 3 or 4 weeks after beginning, to share thoughts and ideas.

We look forward to embarking on this Montessori journey with you and your child, and we are sure it will be a happy and productive time.