



Oscar Bears' Day Care

Parents as Partners Policy

At Oscar Bears' Day Care we welcome all parents as partners and support a two-way sharing of information that helps establish trust and understanding. Working together ensures we can meet the individual needs of the family and child and provide the highest quality of care and education.

We ask parents to contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry by completing 'All about me' forms whilst getting to know their child's keyworker and other familiar staff. We keep parents informed about their children's progress through Tapestry observations.

We encourage parents to support and share information about their children's learning and development at home, Tapestry allows parents and carers to upload their own photos and observations opening up another channel of professional communication between family and staff.

Oscar Bears' staff encourage 'at home activities', for example, taking turns with the Everywhere Bear, writing a letter and visiting a postbox, or tasking parents/children to wear specific clothes in celebration of a charity.

The key person system ensures all practitioners use effective, targeted strategies and interventions to support learning that match most children's individual needs.

Our policy is to:

- Recognise and support parents as their child's first and most important educators and to welcome them into the life of the nursery.
- Generate confidence and encourage parents to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child.
- Welcome all parents into the nursery at any time and provide an area where parents can speak confidentially with us as required.
- Welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make use of the staff room whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers as required.
- Ensure nursery documentation and communications are provided in different and accessible formats to suit each parent's needs e.g. Braille, multi-lingual, electronic communications.
- Ensure that all parents are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures. A detailed parent Admissions booklet/prospectus will be provided and our full policy documents will be available to parents through Tapestry or our website. Policies of current topics will be sent out regularly to parents via email.
- Maintain regular contact with parents to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children.
- Support parents in their own continuing education and personal development including helping them to develop their parenting skills and inform them of relevant conferences, workshops and training, where required.
- Create opportunities for parents to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as children's parties, holiday celebrations or parents evenings. Also allowing Parent details to be shared with each other if agreed by both parties.



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- Inform parents about the range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, the types of food and drinks provided for children and events through Tapestry, newsletters and our social media.
- Operate a key person system to enable parents to establish a close, working relationship with a named practitioner and to support two-way information sharing about each child's individual needs both in nursery and at home. Parents are given the name of the key person of their child and their role when the child starts and updates as they transition through the setting.
- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in shared record keeping. Parents' evenings are held as and when required.
- Actively encourage parents to contribute to children's learning through sharing observations, interests and experiences from home. This may be verbally, sharing photographs or in written form on Tapestry.
- Agree the best communication method with parents e.g. email, face-to-face, telephone and share information about the child's day e.g. food eaten, activities, sleep times etc. We pride ourselves on our face to face, verbal feedback at the end of children's sessions, unless parents communicate they prefer to receive feedback in a different manner.
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child and nursery operation.
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery.
- Inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions.
- Share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, learning in the nursery, how parents can further support learning at home and where they can access further information.
- Provide a written contract between the parent(s) and the nursery regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for payment.
- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so.
- Inform parents how the nursery supports children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Find out the needs and expectations of parents. We will do this through feedback via questionnaires and encouraging parents to review our working practices. We will evaluate any responses and publish these for parents with an action plan to inform future policy and staff development.

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Date: July 2024