



Little Learners
NURSERY GROUP

Transitions

(Including separated families)

Created: April 2026

To be reviewed: April 2027

At Little Learner's Nursery Group, we are very aware that children experience many transitions in their early years, some of these planned and some unplanned. Nursery staff are sensitive to the difficulties children may have whilst going through these transitions and aim to create the best possible environment so that children can navigate these early changes smoothly.

Some examples of transitions that young children and babies may experience are:

- Starting nursery
- Moving between different rooms within the nursery
- Starting school or moving nurseries
- Family breakdowns
- New siblings
- Moving home
- The passing of a family member
- The passing of a family pet.

Staff are trained to observe their key children and as such will be sensitive to any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask that parents inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child so staff can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's character.

Supporting transitions in the nursery

See Settling In Policy

Moving rooms procedure

- If the child is due to move rooms due to age and stage readiness, we will work with the parents to ensure this is a seamless process in which the child is fully supported at all stages
- The child will spend short sessions in their new room prior to the permanent move to enable them to feel comfortable in their new surroundings

- The child's key person will go with the child whenever possible on these initial visits to enable a familiar person to be present
- Parents will be kept informed of all visits and the outcomes of these sessions e.g. through photographs, discussions or Family observation entries
- If a child requires more support this will be discussed between the key person, parent, manager and room leader of the new room to enable this to occur.

Starting school

Starting school is a huge transition and the nursery will do all it can to facilitate a successful transition to Reception. We have a variety of methods that support this:

- The nursery will provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, a role play area set up as a school classroom, photographs of some of the common schools the children may attend. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept and will aid their transition.
- The nursery will invite school representatives into the nursery to introduce them to the children. Where possible, staff will also engage in reciprocal visits with schools to build familiarity and consistency for children.
- The key person will initiate conversations with their key children, who are due to move to school, about the school and discuss what they think may be different and what may be the same. They will talk through any concerns the child may have and initiate activities or group discussions relating to any issues enabling these to be overcome.
- Where possible the same keyworkers will be available across the transition period, which will help build shared understanding across home, early years setting and the new school.
- The nursery will ensure a comprehensive end of pre-school report is produced for each child starting school. This will include their interests, strengths, and level of development in key areas to support continuity of care and learning.
- With parental consent, the nursery will share relevant information regarding any additional needs or support strategies with the receiving school to ensure appropriate support is in place from the outset.

- The nursery will support children through the use of social stories, discussions and activities to help them understand what to expect when starting school and to reduce any anxieties around this transition.
- The nursery will work in partnership with parents and carers, offering guidance and reassurance to support children's readiness for school and to build confidence throughout the transition process.
- Transition will be viewed as a gradual and ongoing process rather than a single event. Children will be supported over time through planned experiences that build familiarity, confidence and a sense of belonging.
- The nursery will prioritise children's emotional wellbeing, ensuring that all children feel safe, secure and confident as they move into their new learning environment.

The last day of your pre-school is the last day of August before your child's 5th birthday.

Family breakdowns and separated families

When parents separate it is a difficult situation for all concerned. The nursery understands that emotions run high and this policy sets out how we will support all parties within the nursery including our staff team.

We will:

- Ensure the child's welfare is paramount at all times whilst they are in the nursery
- Comply with any details of a court order where applicable to the child's attendance at the nursery where we have seen a copy/have a copy attached to the child's file
- Provide information on the child's progress, e.g. learning journeys, progress checks within the nursery, to both parents where both hold parental responsibility
- Invite both parents to nursery events, including parental consultations and social events where both hold parental responsibility
- Ensure any incident or accident within the nursery relating to the child is reported to the person collecting the child

- Ensure that all matters known by the staff pertaining to the family and the parent's separation remain confidential
- Ensure that no member of staff takes sides regarding the separation and treats both parents equally and with due respect
- Not restrict access to any parent with parental responsibility unless a formal court order is in place. We respectfully ask that parents do not put us in this position.

We ask parents to:

- Provide us with all information relating to parental responsibilities, court orders and injunctions
- Update information that changes any of the above as soon as practicably possible
- Work with us to ensure continuity of care and support for your child
- Not involve nursery staff in any family disputes, unless this directly impacts on the care we provide for the child
- Talk to the manager/key person away from the child when this relates to family separation in order to avoid the child becoming upset. This can be arranged as a more formal meeting or as an informal chat
- Not ask the nursery to take sides in any dispute. We will only take the side of your child and this will require us to be neutral at all times.

Moving home and new siblings

These are normally two events that parents will have advance notice of, and we ask that parents let the nursery know about these events so we can support the child to be ready for this. We will spend time talking to the child and providing activities that may help the child to act out any worries they have, e.g. through role play, stories and discussions.

Parents may also consider placing their child into nursery for additional sessions (subject to availability) during these events to provide them with consistency and time away from the changes occurring.

Bereavement

Nursery children and their families may experience grief and loss of close family

members or friends whilst with us in the nursery. We understand that this is not only a difficult time for families but it may also be a confusing time for young children, especially if they have little or no understanding of why their parents are upset and why this person is no longer around.

We aim to support both the child and their family and will adapt the following procedure to suit their individual needs and wants:

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member or close friend that the parents inform the nursery as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and helps us to understand a potential change in behaviour of a child who may be grieving themselves
- The key person and/or the manager will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the nursery. This may be an informal discussion or a meeting away from the child to help calm a potentially upsetting situation
- The child may need extra support or one-to-one care during this difficult time, the nursery will adapt their staffing arrangements so they are fully supported by the most appropriate member of staff on duty, preferably the child's key person
- The nursery will be flexible wherever possible to adapt the sessions the child and family may need during this time
- The death of family pets is also an area that children and their families may need support with. We will follow the above procedure wherever it is appropriate to support the child to understand their loss and support their emotions through this time.

There may also be rare occasions when the nursery is affected by a death of a child or member of staff. This will be a difficult time for the staff team, children and families. Below are some agencies that may be able to offer further support and counselling if this occurs.

The Samaritans: www.samaritans.co.uk 08457 909090

Priory: www.priorygroup.com 08452 PRIORY (08452 774679)

Child Bereavement UK:

www.childbereavement.org.uk/For/ForBereavedFamilies/BereavedFamiliesandSchools

Cruse Bereavement Care: www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk 0844 477 9400
helpline@cruse.org.uk

British Association of Counselling: www.bacp.co.uk 01788 578328