

Partnership With Parent's Policy

Policy name	Partnership With Parent's Policy		
Document number			
Applicable to	Howgill staff, volunteers, parents and carers		
Effective from	January 2022	Date approved by trustees	02/02/2022
Next revision date	January 2023		

At Howgill Nursery we believe that parents and staff need to work together in a close partnership for children to receive the quality of care and early learning to meet their individual needs.

We welcome parents/carers as partners and support a two-way sharing of information that helps establish trust and understanding. We are committed to supporting parents/carers in an open and sensitive manner to be an integral part of the care and early learning team within the nursery. The key person system supports engagement with all parents/carers and will use strategies to ensure that all parents/carers can contribute to their child's learning and development.

Parents/carers contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry and they are kept well informed about their children's progress. Parents/carers are encouraged to support and share information about their children's learning and development at home.

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 regarding parents and carers as partners is to:

- Recognise and support parents/carers as their child's first and most important educators and to welcome them into the life of the nursery
- Generate confidence and encourage parents/carers to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child
- Welcome all parents/carers 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 available a private area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers
- Ensure nursery documentation and communications are provided in different formats to suit each parent/carer's needs, e.g. Braille, multi-lingual, electronic.

- Maintain regular contact with parents/carers to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children
- Support parents/carers 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
- Create opportunities for parents/carers to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment.
- Inform parents/carers about the range and type of resources and learning experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, the types of food and drinks provided for children and events through monthly newsletters and Facebook page
- Operate a key person system to enable parents/carers 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/carers are given the name of the key person of their child and their role when the child starts
- Inform parents/carers on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in shared record keeping.
- Actively encourage parents/carers to contribute to children's learning through sharing observations, interests and experiences from home. This may be verbally, sharing photographs using tapestry or in written form.
- Agree the best communication method with parents/carers e.g. email, face-to-face, telephone and share information about the child's day, e.g. food eaten, activities, sleep times etc.
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents/carers concerning the care and early learning of their child and nursery operation
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents/carers to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery
- Inform all parents/carers of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents.
- Make sure all parents/carers have access to our written complaints procedure
- Share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, young children's learning in the nursery, how parents/carers can further support learning at home and where they can access further information
- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so
- Inform parents/carers how the nursery supports children with special educational needs and disabilities

Find out the needs and expectations of parents/carers. We will do this through regular feedback via questionnaires, suggestion system and encouraging parents to review working practices. We will evaluate any responses and use these to promote nursery practice, policy and staff development.