

Policy on children returning to Nursery after COVID-19



Little Scallywags reopened all settings to children on 1st June 2020.

To ensure there is regular communication with families who have made the decision not to attend nursery during this time, staff will liaise with family's fortnightly through phone or email. Our more vulnerable families are spoken to weekly, and all information is recorded.

Managers and room leaders will share opportunities and resources to support learning at home – this has been done using Tapestry or 'Home link' packs.

To do this, staff have used resources such as: -

- Tapestry – an online observation tool that links appropriate home learning with children's age and development.
- The Hungry Little Minds campaign features tips and practical activities that parents are able to do at home.
- BBC's Tiny Happy People
- National Literacy Trust's Family Zone

Activities are also shared through nurseries private social media sites such as 'Instagram' and 'Facebook'.

Staff who are keyworkers will also liaise with parents and children through videos and zoom calls where necessary.

For all children who have not returned to nursery and are due to start school or another setting in September 2020 – managers have liaised with professionals to support the transition and share important information. Transition documents have been completed by key workers and shared with school and parents.

For any children with SEN – all relevant plans have been shared with settings, schools and relevant outside professionals in preparation for children starting a new setting.

Supporting our vulnerable children and families

Managers and DSL's work with local authorities to monitor the welfare of all vulnerable children in our care and are not attending nursery. This includes, local authorities, health visitors, family support workers and Area SENCO's.

Managers and staff have used children's current SEN plans to support home learning, including instructions on how best parents can support children to achieve their targets at home.

Children's return to nursery

Staff at Little Scallywags will take careful consideration in supporting children's return to nursery.

Staff will plan appropriate transitions and routines to ensure all children (particularly SEN and those more vulnerable) are correctly supported on their return to nursery. This may mean adapting start/pick up times when necessary.

All children will be tracked and assessed on their return to nursery. This will be used as a re-entry baseline and children will be given the appropriate support where required. If staff identify a delay in learning, they will take appropriate steps to ensure children have the opportunity to reach their milestones.

Staff will, for example:-

- Implement change of engaging environments- ensure visual aids are being used.
- Enable high- quality adult/child interactions
- Encourage and promote 'Home Learning' and strong relationships with parents
- Create small group activities that support children to work together, share and take turns
- Provide a consistent approach to behaviour management
- Encourage and promote independence where possible
- Involve children in decision making, support them to find their own solutions to conflicts
- Focus on staff professional development, introducing new training, skill and knowledge to improve confidence in practice.

Parents will be notified of any changes in staff or key workers with appropriate notice.

SEN plans will be reviewed on children's return to nursery, including 'back to nursery' meetings with parents for those children classed as vulnerable and SEN/support plans will be reviewed and updated. This is to ensure nursery have a full update on any changes in children's behaviour during this period of absence and can support them appropriately.

Managers will keep staff up to date with changes of guidance and responsibilities throughout this period through staff and 1:1 meetings.