



## Settling in Policy

Reviewer	Date review	Due for review
Claude Lebaleur	June 2022	June 2023

Children settle into kindergarten in different ways and timescales. Many children settle comfortably into the kindergarten rhythm during the first week, some take a little longer and need support. If a child finds separating from their parents/carers distressing a discussion will take place with the kindergarten teacher to adopt a strategy.

Children can find the separation from their parents/carers the most difficult part of coming to the kindergarten and will calm down once their parents/carers have left. The teacher will advise the parent/carer when they would like the parent/carer to leave. This may mean that a child is left in tears, however, they will be comforted and supported by the teacher or assistant and the parent/carer will be contacted by phone to reassure them that their child is happy and coping.

It is important that during the period of settling into the kindergarten rhythm parents/carers remain positive and willing about the process, to show understanding and support towards the child's feelings and assure them that they will return after drawing and part with a hug, kiss and a confident smile. Prolonging the parting, prolongs the amount of time a child takes to adjust to saying goodbye. If parents/carers show confidence in the teacher and environment then the children assimilate these feelings and in turn feel safe with the process.

The first few weeks of the kindergarten can be tiring for some children, especially the young ones, so we recommend they have a shorter week. The settling process is outlined below, although teachers will be available to talk and advice at any stage of the settling in process.

Gathering at GS "stay & play"	New families and lead teacher	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 10-12
Gathering at GS "stay & play"	New families and lead teacher	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022 10-12
Picnic for new families at the Magic Glade on site.	New families and lead teacher	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022 12-1:30pm

Parents Evening on zoom	New families and lead teacher	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 8-9pm (zoom)
Community day & Picnic	All families, Lead and assistant teacher	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 10-1:30pm
Home visits	Lead teacher	6 & 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
Gathering for all children puppet show and cake, parents leave	All families	8 <sup>th</sup> September 11-12pm
Week 1 of kindergarten new families shorter day	Parents can stay outdoors for up to half an hour with child.	12-15 <sup>th</sup> September 9:30-12
Week 2 of kindergarten New families shorter day	Parents leave	19-22 <sup>nd</sup> September 9:30-1:30
Week 3 of kindergarten All families full days	Parents leave	26 <sup>th</sup> onwards 9:30-2:30

Children are usually ready and excited about starting kindergarten, exploring the world beyond their homes and having a social life outside of their family. We will do our best to support children and their families in making this transition as gentle and as happy as possible.

Please refer to additional letters from Lead teacher, Claude on supporting your child in the run up to starting Kindergarten.