

Supporting Transitions

Children experience many transitions in the Early Years and practitioners at Sunnydale Nursery are sensitive to the difficulties children may have whilst going through these transitions.

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

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

Practitioners are trained to observe their key children, noticing any changes in their behaviour and personality. We respectfully ask their parents/ carer to inform us of any changes in the home environment that may impact on their child, so practitioners can be aware of the reasons behind any potential changes in the child's behaviour and to ensure we can offer the right support.

Supporting transitions in the nursery.

Sunnydale nursery Ltd will support all children in the nursery with any transitions they may encounter. If the transition relates to the child starting at the nursery, we will follow our admissions and settling in policies. If the transition is due to occur within the nursery, e.g. room changes, the nursery will fully support the child through this process in the following ways:

Moving room procedures

- When a child is due to move rooms (due to age and stage readiness) we will work with the parents/ carers to ensure this is a seamless process in which the child and parents/ carers are fully supported through at all stages.
- The child will spend a series of 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 attend the first initial visit with the child to ensure a familiar person is present to comfort and reassure where necessary.
- A member of staff from the room the child is transitioning into will spend time in their current room, getting to get to know the child in a familiar space.
- Wherever possible, children will be moved in peer groups to support established friendships.

- Parents/ carers will be informed of all visits and the outcomes of these sessions e.g. through photographs, discussions or email.
- Only when the child has settled in through these 'taster' sessions will the permanent room change take place. If a child requires more visits, this will be discussed with the parent/carer.
- The child's current Key Person will communicate with their new Key Person to understand the child's next steps and learn all about the child through their 'All About Me'.
- When the end of term development tracking is completed, an updated 'All About Me' page will be completed for the new staff in the child's next room to use to gain better understanding of the child. E.g. favourite song, comforter, family members etc.
- When a child is visiting their new room, staff will send a photograph to the parent/carer, or an observation to show them how their child is settling into the new room.
- A 'Meet the Team' event will take place early in the new term to allow families the opportunity to meet the staff working in their child's new room and to ask any questions they may have.
- At the beginning of a new term, a Manager and the Room Leader of the child's new room, will hold a Q&A session to inform families of the new routine and to provide any information they will need to know, such as Forest School days.

Starting school

Starting school is a huge transition for both children and their families, Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will do all it can to support and facilitate a smooth move. We have a variety of methods that support this:

- Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will provide a variety of resources that relate to the school, e.g. uniform to dress up in, book bags, photographs of local schools that the children may attend. This will help the children to become familiar with this new concept and will support transition.
- Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will invite school representatives into the nursery to introduce them to the children.
- The Key Person will initiate conversations with their key children, who are due to move school, about the school and discuss what they think may be different and that 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.
- Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will ensure a transition document is produced on understanding of each individual child. This will include their interests, strengths, and level of understanding and development in key areas. This will

support, continuity of care and early learning. Learning Journeys from EY Log will also be passed on to the school.

- Where appropriate, Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will arrange and accompany the child on their visit to school to support them with the change. This is crucial where a delayed or deferred start is planned, or there are additional or SEND.
- Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will attend “cluster group” meetings, where appropriate and within their area, communicating effectively with other professionals to enable children’s individual needs to be met. Information sharing about individual children will be forthcoming with consent from their child’s parents/ carers.

Family Breakdowns

When parents/ carers separate, it can be a difficult situation for all concerned. It is very important that we are informed to enable us to support children through this. Please refer to our separated families policy, which explains how we at Sunnydale Nursery Ltd will act in the best interests of the child.

Moving home and new siblings

These are normally two events that parent/ carers will have advance notice of, and we ask that parents/ carers inform us about these events so we can support the child to be ready for this. We will spend time talking to child and provide activities and resources to support this, e.g. through role play, stories, puppets jigsaws and discussions. Parents/ Carers may also consider placing their child into nursery for additional sessions during these events to provide them with consistency and time away from the changes occurring.

Bereavement

Sunnydale Nursery Ltd have a separate policy on bereavement as this can be an extremely difficult time for the child and their families. If parents/ carers feel that their child requires additional support because of any changes in their life, we ask that you speak to your child’s key person or the Nursery Manager, to enable this support to be put into place.

The policy was adopted on:	April 2022
This policy was disseminated to staff/parents on:	
This policy needs updating on:	December 2026