



Tickton Pre-school and Play Pals Home Visits Policy.

Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

Unique Child

Positive Partnerships

Enabling Environment

Learning and Developing

EYFS

All families are offered a Home Visit.

Tickton Pre-school and Play Pals work in partnership with parents to ensure positive outcomes for all children and the first step in this partnership is to offer a home visit to every family prior to the child coming to setting, this is discussed with the parents/carers and forms part of the setting application form– parents can choose not to have a home visit.

If families are accessing the 2YF (Year Old Scheme/funding) a home visit is part of the expected process for priority need children.

Childhood experiences lay the foundations for later life. Parenting has a critical impact on children's emotional, behavioural and educational development, their health and wellbeing. As a setting, we recognise that a child's parents are the most enduring educator. All staff

recognises the diverse strengths of parents/carers and want to share in their knowledge to help build foundations for their child's learning and development.

Tickton Pre-School believes that the Home Visit makes the transition from home to preschool a smoother one for the family as they will have a familiar face to recognise on their first day.

Home Visits will take place during nursery school hours and appointments will be confirmed in writing to parents/carers. Visits will last 15-30 minutes.

A home visit will be offered to all families during the application process this is to help form relationships between parents, practitioners and children; starting the process of sharing information.

Some parents/families that will not want to have a home visit, this must be respected – the offer may be repeated at a later date.

One-to-one meetings will be available at the setting for families/parents at any time.

Parents/carers and children often feel more relaxed in their own home, parents and carers appreciate having time to talk on a one-to-one basis. Home visits help to develop relationships and build trust in a more relaxed environment.

We recognise the following benefits of home visiting:

- Building relationships.
- Linking the Child's learning from home and the setting.
- Assist parents/carers and staff to observe and gain understanding of their child's skills/interest.
- The gathering of information.
- Smoother transition.

Children can often remember and talk about a home visit long after the event; it can be a special occasion in their lives and enhances the practitioner-child relationship.

Home visits can help understand behaviour patterns and interests.

Parents may feel more comfortable sharing important information about their child in their own home environment.

A member of the management team (including the SENCO), along with the child's allocated key-worker, will carry out home visits as required. **Staff will always go in two's – never alone.**

Both members of staff will wear their I.D. badges and take the settings mobile phone, the number of which will be left in the setting along with the address being visited. A home visit record must be completed.

The key-worker will take along a Parent Pack (and if available a Book Start bag). The key person will also take a bag of suitable toys/or a treasure basket for the child to play with and explore, while the member of management/SENCO completes any necessary paperwork with the parent/carer.

The key worker will explain about 'settling in' at the pre-school – discussing this with the parents, finding out what the child's favourite toy is (If possible we will provide it on the child's first day at nursery). The key person may wish to take some notes (to add to the child's settling in record) - to ensure the child's needs are met on the first day.

A period of one hour will be allocated to each home visit. This must be organised with the child's parents/family. Staff must arrange the time/date of the visit to suit the family best.

The manager will discuss and agree in writing any additional supports or initiatives that will be of benefit to the child and family.

For children on the two year old scheme (2YOS) the procedures of this policy will be followed together with the terms and conditions set by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Parents may require support to complete the application forms – this must be offered.

We will work with parents/carers in an open way. When gathering information, we will ensure we comply with the Data Protection Act, respect the parent/carers confidentiality and ensure all personal information and records are kept securely.

Staff **must** complete a setting '**Home Visit Form**' when attending a home visit.

(SEE HOME VISITS FILE).

Before staff leave preschool to go on a Home Visit they need to do the following:

- Leave their car registration number
- Telephone the nursery school after each Home Visit to log in so that the nursery knows where they are
- Take a mobile phone with them
- Record and inform the nursery school where they are going.

The safety of our staff is very important. Staff should not take risks and if they feel insecure they should not go on a Home Visit.