

Little Forest Folk

Home Visit Policy

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Reviewed and amended by: Xiao Flynn

Childhood experiences lay the foundations for later life. Parenting has a critical impact on children's emotional, behavioural and educational development, and their health and wellbeing. The setting works in partnership with parents to ensure positive outcomes for children.

Little Forest Folk believe that a home visit is an opportunity for the parents and the child to form a professional relationship with the setting in a familiar environment and gives parents the chance to ask questions. It is a unique opportunity for the setting to meet the child in their home environment and answer any questions the parents might have.

Aim:

- To provide an opportunity for a new child and family to meet the key person in their own home prior to the child starting at the setting.
- The purpose of the visit is to help the child, family and key person get to know more about each other in the home environment where the child usually feels most relaxed.
- The home visit is an optional service that the setting provides, not all families wish to take us up on this offer, and the home visit is additional to our settling in policy provided for all children.

Procedure:

- If a parent accepts a home visit, the key person will contact the parent and arrange a time that is mutually convenient for the family, the key person and an additional staff member.
- A member of staff will always be made aware of the address of the family being visited.
 - If either member of staff visiting the family has an allergy or are aversion to domestic pets eg dogs or cats then they must inform the parent prior to the visit to ensure that arrangements can be made to reduce the risk.
- A home visit will always be attended by two members of staff, the key person and another staff member. The staff will make their own way to and way back from the families' home, and this will take



place during normal working hours wherever possible. Both members of staff will wear their I.D. badges and carry a mobile phone, the number of which will be left in the nursery.

- The key person will use the home visit as a means of talking to the family, gaining information about the child and answering any questions the family may have. The additional staff member will probably give attention to the child during this time.

- The staff will stay together during the home visit and would not expect to be left alone with the child during the visit.

- We would not expect a home visit to last longer than 45 minutes.

- Staff will be conscious of the fact that they are guests in the families' home and will treat all families with a high level of respect and regard during the visit.

In line with our safeguarding policy, if the Little Forest Folk employee leaves the home visit with any safeguarding concerns they will report the details back to their Designated Safeguarding Lead.