



## **BROOK FARM CHILDREN'S NURSERY**

### **NO 54. PARENTS AND CARERS AS PARTNERS**

***EYFS: 1.16, 2.1, 2.3, 2.6, 3.27, 3.48, 3.69, 3.74,***

At **Brook Farm Children's Nursery** we welcome all parents as partners and support a two-way sharing of information that helps establish trust and understanding. We are committed to supporting parents in an open and sensitive manner and include them as an integral part of the care and early learning team within the nursery. Working together ensures we can meet the individual needs of the family and child and provide the highest quality of care and education.

The key person system supports engagement with all parents and we use strategies to ensure that all parents can contribute to their child's learning and development. We ask parents to contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry and they are kept well informed about their children's progress. We encourage parents to support and share information about their children's learning and development at home and the key person seeks to engage them in guiding their child's development at home too. The key person system ensures all practitioners use effective, targeted strategies and interventions to support learning that match most children's individual needs.

#### **Our policy is to:**

- Recognise and support parents as their child's first and most important educators, and to welcome them into the life of the nursery.
- Generate confidence and encourage parents to trust their own instincts and judgement regarding their own child.
- Welcome all parents into the nursery at any time.
- Welcome nursing mothers. The nursery will make available a private area whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers.
- Ensure that all parents are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures. A detailed parent prospectus will be provided and our full policy documents will be available to parents at all times, and also on the nursery website.
- Maintain regular contact with parents to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children.
- Support parents in their own continuing education and personal development and inform them of relevant conferences, workshops and training.
- Create opportunities for parents to talk to other adults in a secure and supportive environment through such activities as open days, pop in and play sessions, parent's evenings and parent representative meetings.
- Inform parents about the range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, the types of food and drinks provided for children and events through regularly distributed newsletters, Nursery private facebook page and the nursery website. In babies and toddlers the children have a daily communication book and in the preschool room there is a communication board.



- Operate a key person system to enable a close working relationship with all parents. Support two-way information sharing regarding each child's individual needs both in nursery and at home. Parents are given the name of the key person of their child and their role when the child starts.
- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in the shared record keeping. Parents' evenings will be held at least once a year. Parents will be consulted with about the times of meetings to avoid excluding anyone. Each child's development file will be sent home every 3 months for parents to look at and comment on.
- Encourage parents to contribute to children's learning through sharing observations, interests and experiences from home. This could be verbally, sharing photographs or in written form. We now have home observation sheets in each room on their information board. These can be taken home for parents to write up observations at home and suggest future learning ideas.
- Share information about the child's day, e.g. food eaten, activities, sleep times etc.
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child and nursery operation.
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities of the nursery.
- Inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents. All parents have access to our written complaints procedure.
- Share information about the Early Years Foundation Stage, young children's learning in the nursery, how parents can further support learning at home and where they can access further information.
- Provide a written contract between the parent(s) and the nursery regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for payment.
- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so.
- Inform parents how the nursery supports children with special educational needs and disabilities, with regard to the Special Educational Needs policy (SEN).
- Find out the needs and expectations of parents. These will be obtained through regular feedback via questionnaires, suggestion system and encouraging parents to review working practices. These are then evaluated by the nursery to promote nursery practice, policy and staff development.