



HOME VISITING

Bolnore Village Pre-School staff recognise the importance of making strong, positive connections between the setting and the home environment in order to promote enduring, trusting relationships which develop into inclusive practice where parental input and involvement is widely sought and valued.

There are particular times in a young child's life where these connections help to familiarise and support a child through a time of change. The occasions that may make a home visit beneficial tend to be at **transition times**, particularly when a child is about to start Pre-School, or Reception Year, or at times when additional support is required due to **special educational needs or disability**.

In these situations a Home Visit will be offered to a family with a date and time being arranged that suits both the family's needs as well as the working constraints of Pre-School staff. A family is under no obligation to accept the offer of a Home Visit, but it is hoped that the majority of parents/carers will appreciate the benefits of meeting and talking with staff within familiar surroundings.

When a child is new to the Pre-School:

Home visits enable both parents and children an opportunity to learn more about our setting in a very informal and unhurried way. The practice of home-visiting embraces a two-way information sharing process which recognises parents/carers as a child's first and foremost educator, the importance of attachment and our role in meeting individual children's needs.

Parents can expect to be given relevant information about the setting, staff and general everyday 'house-keeping' details, as well as the chance to chat with their child's allocated Key Person. Home visits as part of the Induction/Transition process allow time for the Key Person to play alongside the child in his/her familiar environment, establishing right from the start the desire to know and understand the child's needs in order to offer comfort, reassurance and the support that will allow the child to learn and develop, and settle in securely at Pre-School.

Typical information given at a Home Visit include:

- Induction date and time
- Start date and time
- Key group and Key Person information
- Current newsletter
- All About Me scrapbook
- Induction paperwork including All About Me starting information



A member of the management team will accompany practitioners on Home Visits and will be able to answer specific queries, address any parental concerns and also talk through the paperwork that needs to be completed when attending the Pre-School.

The aims of Home Visiting from the perspective of Early Years staff:

- Leave details about Key Person and Key Group which can be shared with family members
- Leave house-keeping information in the form of a current newsletter
- Leave blue book bag with All About Me scrapbook already started by Key Person
- Read All About Me paperwork which is taken away from Home Visits - details supplied by parent/carer
- Identify any specific needs prior to starting ie is the child being seen by Speech & Language therapist etc

In cases of Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND):

Sometimes, a family may request, or staff at Pre-School may identify a need for a lengthier meeting to discuss a child's care and learning and development needs. In most cases this can be arranged within session times but on occasion a Home Visit may provide an opportunity for parents/carers and the setting's SENCO/INCO to formulate a more holistic view of the child. In this instance the SENCO/INCO, Fay Flude will usually undertake this visit by herself, but will ensure the child's Key Person is involved in providing information which will enhance any meeting. The aim of the visit will be to gather a more detailed picture of a child's learning and development, to listen to the parent/carer's perspective, to collate information about any other agencies/professionals involved, to identify any provisions (staff, resources, equipment etc) that need to be made, as well as talking through goals in a Play Plan and/or reviewing the goals of a Play Plan.

Code of Conduct for staff undertaking Home Visits:

- Please wear your uniform and name badge
- PLEASE REMEMBER YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR OF THE PRE-SCHOOL. How you present yourself as a professional has a direct impact on how parents/carers and children view the Pre-School. You are therefore expected to behave as a friendly professional at all times. You are not in a parent/carer's home in a social capacity but are there to promote Bolnore Village Pre-School as a very welcoming and caring setting, with quality care and education of children at its very centre!
- If there is a reason why you feel your professionalism may be compromised (eg knowing the family socially/related) please do speak to



Holly or Fay who will then discuss this with you and reallocate key children if necessary.

- PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A GUEST IN A PRE-SCHOOL FAMILY'S HOME. We have been invited in and should, as always, be respectful of the family's home, background, culture, religion and language.
- As a Key Person attending a Home Visit it is expected that you will introduce yourself to the family and spend time engaged with the child, following the child's lead as to how comfortable they feel (you might be able to play in the same room with the child or a child might choose to sit with a parent/carer)
- The role of the accompanying manager is to gather information, answer queries and identify any specific needs prior to the child starting, as well as supporting the Key Person / Early Years Practitioner during the Home Visit.