

Home Visit

A Parent's Guide



What to Expect ...



What is a home visit?

A home visit is an opportunity for you and your child to get to know the teacher, teaching assistant or key person in your home environment where you feel most relaxed. It is an important part of the transition into school, pre-school, nursery or childminder setting.

The visit is informal, and you do not need to prepare anything for it. It is an opportunity for key adults to begin to build those trusting relationships with you and your child whilst in your own home environment. It also gives you the opportunity to ask any questions, including those that you may have been uncomfortable to ask when in a larger group.

We recognise that as a parent, you are your child's first educator and therefore very important. A home visit allows you to share information about your child. This might include their interests, what you like to do as a family and special people to them, as well as sharing more personal information such as their medical history, dietary, feeding and toileting needs. This is also an opportunity for you express any concerns or worries you have about your child.

We also recognise that starting at a new setting or school can cause some worries for both the child and parents. The home visit often eases parental worries, as we will happily answer any questions you have and talk things through together.

Most children are very excited that their new teacher, teaching assistant or key person is coming to their home and for many it is the highlight of the settling in process.



What will happen during the visit?

It is good practice that two adults will carry out the home visit. It can last approximately half an hour and will often include one adult talking to you about your child whilst the other adult talks and plays with your child.

We might bring some toys and books with us so that your child can become familiar with some of the resources they will enjoy whilst they are with us. This means they are getting to know us too. With your permission we would like to take a photo of your child and us together at your home. We will use this to help build memories.

We may ask questions and share additional information that we think is helpful to know. This might include:

- asking if you have any questions
- arrangements for the beginning and end of the day/session
- what to do about prescribed medication
- sharing what your child needs to bring with them every day

We really believe in the importance of home visits. Positive comments from previous parents include:

"The home visit helped my child get to know the adults in an environment that they are confident in. It was also great to have some time with the members of staff to ask questions that I had."

"My child was really excited about the adults coming to visit and made her even more enthusiastic about starting."

It is important to us that all parents feel comfortable with the offer of a home visit. If you are concerned about this, please talk to us and we can find another way to meet up and chat.

