

Parental Involvement

At Little Oaks we believe that children will benefit most from their time with us if we work in partnership with their parents or carers. To achieve the best outcomes for children we recognise it is essential to find effective ways of communicating with parents/carers and understand that different people will respond to different methods.

We make sure that we get to know each individual family through a paired system involving a key person for each child attending. We have regular communication with parents/carers about the child to keep information up to date and to know of anything that may affect the child's well-being when they attend their sessions with us.

We value parents as children's primary educators and see our role as supporting and supplementing their role. The staff team welcome both fathers and mothers, other relations and other carers, including childminders and people from all cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups, with and without disabilities.

We believe that it is therefore essential that we are approachable and supportive. To achieve this, we aim to:

- Meet or talk with parents or carers prior to their child joining our setting to gain information on the child's needs, likes and dislikes.
- Inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies using written information and by verbally checking that parents understand this information.
- Encourage and support any parent who wishes to play an active part in the running of the setting e.g. by joining the committee
- Hold parents evenings for parents once a year, to come in and discuss their child's progress.
- Hold committee meetings in the evenings to allow the maximum number of people to attend. Meetings will also be open to non-committee members where appropriate.
- Actively encourage all parents or carers to stay for sessions to share their skills and interests.
- Regularly inform parents about their child's progress by means of termly reports and chatting with the child's key person as required.
- Actively encourage parents to contribute to their child's online journals and "next steps" and value their contributions. Parents are also encouraged to contribute by means of notes, photos, pictures etc. Each child's key person is responsible for ensuring their children's families understand the benefit of this 2-way exchange of information.
- Inform parents about training and development opportunities for them.
- Ensure all parents are aware of the complaints procedure.
- Ensure there is a system for parents to make suggestions as to the day to day running of the setting.
- Always appreciate that a parent or carer will know their child best.

See also Volunteer Policy.

Date of Review	Summary of Changes Made	Signed on behalf of the committee	Role of signatory
February 2012 - 2025	Historic policy reviews	N/A	N/A
November 2025	Added new policy review table	<i>K. Bell</i>	Chair
DD/MM/YYYY			

Policy effective from February 2012