

The Strawberry Patch Policies and Procedures

Parents as partners

At The Strawberry Patch we believe our children benefit most from early year's education and care when parents and the setting work together in partnership.

Our aim is support parents as their children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and in the full life of the setting.

We realise that some parents are less well represented in early years settings, these may include fathers, parents who live apart from their children but who still play a part in their lives as well as working parents. In carrying out the following procedure we will ensure all parents are included.

When we refer to 'parents' we mean both mothers and fathers, these include both natural and birth parents as well as step parents and those who do not live with their children, but have contact with them and play a part in their lives. 'Parents' also includes same sex parents as well as foster parents.

Procedures

- We consult with all parents to find out what is best for them.
- We ensure ongoing communication with parents to improve our knowledge of their child's needs and how we can support the families.
- All parents are informed of how the setting is run and its policies through access to written information which is available in the cloakroom for parents to access. We check that the parents understand the information given to them by verbal communication.
- We have a comments box for parents to give their views and ideas for the setting.
- We encourage parents to become actively involved in the setting, forming a positive working relationship with their child's key person
- We inform parents regularly about their children's progress and involve them in shared record keeping, formally or informally, encouraging them to take home their child's learning story at least every half term.
- We ensure the children's Learning stories are on display at all times for the parents and children to access them.

- We ensure times, places and information about meetings are available to all parents and home visits can be arranged where needed.
- We Invite parents to all the open days and fun days we arrange at the nursery.
- We ensure time is offered to all parents to discuss any worries or concerns confidentially and in a quiet place away from others.
- We welcome the contributions of parents in whatever form this may take.
- We inform all parents of the system of registering queries, complaints and suggestions and check to ensure these are understood.
- All parents have access to our written complaints procedure.

Signed: _____

Review date: _____