



### **SETTLING IN POLICY**

At Little Steps we understand how difficult it is for parents to leave their child in the care of someone else and return to work. We will therefore work with you to ensure your child is settled and that you are happy with the care we will provide.

Settling in sessions give you the opportunity to provide us with lots of information about your child, their likes and dislikes, routines, favourite activities, how to comfort them if they are upset and how they usually react when you leave. It gives us the opportunity to start to build a relationship with you and your child and to understand both of your needs.

The settling in period will normally consist of 2, 1 hour long visits. For the first settle session, we encourage you to stay and allow your child to explore the setting in the comfort of knowing you are close by. We then recommend a further 1-2 sessions, where you will leave your child for the duration of the session to explore without you. If you feel your child needs further settle sessions we can discuss this and make arrangements.

Some children take longer than others to settle and some settle quickly but then become distressed a few weeks into the placement. We will work with you to support your child through this transition period and to make it as easy as possible. It is important that you and your child are relaxed and happy in the setting and with the care we provide. Some parents find it helpful to call us during the day to find out how their child is. Your child's key carer will be happy to take such calls and have a chat, but may sometimes be unable to talk for long, depending on the demands of the children.

Please note, there will be no charge for the first 3 settle sessions.