

Rarely misses a day in setting

Regular attendance helps children develop a sense of security, belonging, and familiarity with daily routines. Consistent attendance supports children's emotional wellbeing, builds positive relationships, and helps them engage in learning and play. When attendance is part of a family's regular routine, children are more likely to feel settled, confident, and ready to take on new experiences and challenges.

Practitioners can support by:

- Developing strong, trusting relationships with children and their families.
- Creating a welcoming environment where children and parents feel valued and included.
- Being approachable and available to discuss any concerns that may affect attendance.
- Talking openly with parents about any difficulties affecting attendance. Agreeing personalised strategies where needed, such as adapted arrival or departure routines.
- Considering home visits, where appropriate, to strengthen relationships and better understand family circumstances.
- Showing sensitivity to families' individual circumstances, cultures, and experiences.
- Recognising that attendance difficulties can have a range of underlying causes.
- Focusing on understanding barriers and working collaboratively with families to find solutions.
- Monitoring attendance and identifying patterns of absence.
- Following up concerns promptly and sensitively.
- Working with families to set realistic and achievable attendance goals.
- Celebrating improvements in attendance and recognising children's efforts to attend regularly.

Activities, Ideas, Resources and Strategies:

Make the Setting a Positive Place to Be

- Greet children warmly by name and help them feel welcomed and valued.
- Display children's work, photographs, and achievements to promote a sense of belonging.
- Provide engaging and enjoyable learning experiences that motivate children to attend.
- Share positive feedback and successes with families regularly.

Supporting Smooth Transitions

- Use visual timetables, routines, and photographs to help children understand what to expect.
- Provide consistent arrival and collection routines.
- Offer comfort, reassurance, and emotional support for children who find separation difficult.
- Use familiar staff members to support children during arrival and transition times.
- Encourage Consistent Attendance
- Celebrate good attendance and recognise improvements.
- Talk positively about nursery and the opportunities available each day.
- Help families establish routines that support regular attendance.
- Work with parents to identify and overcome any barriers to attendance.

Books

- **'Let's go to nursery!'** by Caryl Hart and Lauren Tobia (A reassuring story that helps children understand nursery routines and develop excitement about attending)
- **'When Mummy goes to work'** by Paul Schofield (A supportive book exploring separation from parents and building confidence when attending childcare settings)