

Our Approach

At Busy Bees Preschool, we understand that starting preschool and moving on to new experiences can be a big step for children and their families. We aim to make every transition positive, supportive and child-centred, helping children feel safe, secure, confident and ready to learn.

Every child is different, and we recognise that some children may need more time, reassurance or additional support during periods of change. We work closely with parents and carers to help every child feel welcome and develop a sense of belonging.

Starting Preschool and Our Open Hour

Before a child starts, we work in partnership with parents and carers to learn about their child's interests, strengths, routines, communication, comfort needs, self-care and any medical or additional needs.

We hold an Open Hour on INSET days for new starters and their families. This gives children and parents the opportunity to:

- Explore the preschool environment together.
- Meet the team and begin building familiar relationships.
- Become familiar with our resources and routines.
- Allow children to play and explore at their own pace.
- Ask questions and discuss any worries or support needs.

Each child is allocated a key person who helps them build trusting relationships and feel secure.

Settling-In

Settling-in arrangements are flexible and based on each child's individual needs. We do not expect every child to settle in at the same pace. If a child finds separation difficult, we work with their family to agree a supportive approach that helps them feel safe while gradually developing confidence and independence. Our team provides comfort, reassurance and encouragement, helping children explore their surroundings and develop confidence when they feel ready. Where helpful, we can discuss a gradual or extended settling-in period with parents, including shorter sessions initially where practical and appropriate.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers know their children best, and their involvement is an important part of a successful transition.

We encourage families to share information about their child's routines, interests, feelings or any changes at home that may affect their wellbeing. We will provide feedback about how their child is settling, including their relationships, interests, play and confidence.

Open communication helps us provide consistent, sensitive support between home and preschool.

Supporting Individual Needs and SEND

Some children may benefit from additional preparation or support when starting preschool or experiencing change. This might include photographs, visual supports, social stories, familiar objects, additional visits or a longer settling-in period.

Where appropriate, our key person will work with parents, the SENCO and other relevant professionals to agree suitable strategies and help each child feel secure, included and supported.

Transitions Within Preschool

Changes to routines, familiar adults or other aspects of preschool life can sometimes feel unsettling. We prepare children for changes wherever possible and provide reassurance and consistency.

Relevant information about children's interests, routines and support needs is shared with appropriate staff to help maintain continuity of care and learning.

Transition to School

We work in partnership with parents and receiving schools to help children prepare for their next stage of learning.

Through everyday play and experiences, we support children to develop confidence, communication, independence, friendships and self-care skills. We also use books, role play and activities to help children understand and feel positive about starting school.

Where opportunities are available, we support school visits and transition activities. For children with SEND or additional needs, we work with families, the SENCO, receiving schools and relevant professionals to plan a transition that meets the child's individual needs.

With parental consent where required, and in line with safeguarding and data protection requirements, we share relevant information with the receiving school to support continuity of care, learning and wellbeing.

Supporting Emotional Wellbeing

Throughout every transition, we respond to children's feelings with patience, kindness and understanding. Children are supported to express their emotions, build relationships and develop confidence at their own pace. We will never shame or pressure a child for finding a change difficult. Our aim is to help every child feel safe, valued and ready for their next step.

Last reviewed: September 2026

Next review: September 2027