

# Wanborough Playgroup

Registered Charity Number 1026150

Ofsted Registration Number: 109096

Village Hall, High Street, Wanborough, Swindon. SN4 0AD

Telephone Number: 790428

www.wanboroughplaygroup.org.uk Email: wanboroughplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk



## **SETTLING YOUR CHILD AT PLAYGROUP**

For many children Playgroup may be their first experience of separation from their parents and/or their first experience in a more structured childcare environment. For many children, particularly those between the ages of 2 and 4 this may result in uncertainty during initial separation from their parents.

This may mean that some children are tearful or very unwilling to separate from their parents as they are dropped off. This is a normal and natural response and experience for many children—even children who have been used to separation from their parents. It is a natural part of your child's development. Your child's time at playgroup provides an excellent opportunity for skilled, experienced and caring staff to support you and your child through these natural phases

In order to do this well the staff will need to work closely with you, as we recognise that you are the expert on your child. The settling in process is different for each child, and if difficulties arise then staff will liaise with you and devise a strategy in partnership.

### **General Guidance to Parents**

- Parents should ensure at drop off that a member of staff has been alerted to their child's distress or risk of distress
- Parents should ensure that playgroup staff are aware of the 'normal' pattern of a child's separation distress, and the strategies that may help to reduce this
- Parents are asked to seek advice from a member of staff on the nature and timing of separation. e.g. leave immediately; leave after registration
- Parents can also ring at any time during the session to check on a child.

### **Commitment from Staff**

Parents need to be assured that Staff WILL make contact if child remains distressed for whatever reason.

Staff will ensure that they are aware of a child's normal patterns of separation distress and have agreed any factors that would warrant asking a parent of a distressed a child to needing to stay or return to playgroup

Staff will provide parents with the benefit of their experience in deciding the best way in which separation from a distressed child should occur

## Tips for Parents

When chatting to your child about playgroup focus on the positives - friends who will be there, particular activities they like, bits of the journey there and back they like. Avoid talking too much about the separation

Some children are helped by knowing what you will be doing ( as long as it doesn't sound too exciting) knowing you are at home or at the shops may provide them with reassurance that you are somewhere familiar

Emphasize that you will be picking them up and talk about the things you will do when you pick them up. As time goes by this will help them to understand that when you say you will come back, that this is true and that they can feel safe that this will happen

Also, we recognise that you may be upset or distressed yourself about the separation. Obviously it is important that you try to avoid letting your child see you upset!!

Remember that a child experiencing separation distress can be intensely distressed when you are there and happy within minutes of separation. This is the most common pattern. This distress may persist for a while but will become less intense with time. This distress is not a reflection on you, your relationship or your parenting. It is a natural response from a developing child learning about the world.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	<u>Wanborough Playgroup committee</u>
Held on	<u>10<sup>th</sup> March 2008</u>
Reviewed on:	<u>26<sup>th</sup> March 2012</u>
Name of Signatory:	<u>Kath Liston</u>
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Chairperson</u>
Next Review Date:	<u>March 2013</u>
Reviewed on:	<u>10<sup>th</sup> February 2014</u>
Name of Signatory:	<u>Ali Petherbridge</u>
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Chairperson</u>
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Next Review Date:	<u>March 2015</u>