

Establishing children's starting points

When children start at Little Poppies Preschool they arrive at different levels of learning and development. In order to help them to settle and make rapid progress it is important that they are provided with care and learning opportunities that are suited to their needs, interests and abilities. This means establishing and understanding their starting points and whether there are any obstacles to their learning, so that teaching can be tailored to the 'unique child'.

- The aim of establishing a child's starting points is to ensure that the most appropriate care and learning is provided from the outset.
- Starting points are established by gathering information from the first contact with the child's parents/carers at induction, using the 'All About Me' document and during the 'settling in' period. Staff do not 'wait and see' how the child is settling before they begin to gather information.
- The key person is responsible for establishing their key children's starting points by gathering information in the following ways:
 - observation of the child during settling in visit
 - discussion with the child's parents/carers completing the 'All About Me' form
 - building on information that has been gathered during registration by referring to the registration pack. Key workers must sign that they have read and passed on any relevant information.

The information gathered is recorded within the first 5 sessions of the child's official start date and sooner where possible and a meeting held with parents/carers.

- The key person must make a 'best fit' judgment about the age band the child is working in, referring to Development Matters.
- The key person should complete details by indicating where they have gathered their evidence from, using more than one source where possible i.e. parent comment and observation during settling in.

If the initial assessment raises any concerns that extra support may be required, the Identification, assessment and support for children with SEND procedure is followed.