

Preparing Your Child For Starting At EtonHouse International Pre-School – Claymore

-: For children attending Nursery 1 Classes :-

For many young children this will be their first experience of being independent of you. Pre-school should be a place of peace and calm for all children. A place that is filled with a wonder, curiosity and joy for learning and being.

It is our hope that our transition programme will support families in their start at EtonHouse International Pre-School Claymore and in joining the educational community here.

Before Starting

Try not to prepare your child too far in advance of their start date as young children are still building an understanding of time.

We would like to suggest to you that before the interview session (where both you and your child will meet with the teaching team) you start talking to your child about some of the following points:

- Where they will be going
- What they can expect to do at pre-school
- Who they will meet, including the teachers names
- What you will be doing when they are at pre-school

In addition also:

- Explain to them that they will stay at pre-school for a period of time and reassure them that you will pick them up.
- Discuss the sequence of their day, linking to routines and events they are very familiar with
- Answer their questions simply and honestly. Try not to let your child pick up on any anxiety you may be feeling about leaving them
- Drive or walk past the pre-school to familiarise your child with the location

Orientation day interview session with the teaching team

This time is allocated to families so that they can familiarise themselves with the pre-school environment and the people who will be working alongside the children. The Parent Liaison Team will share with you an appointment time to meet with the teaching team on this day. Please take the opportunity during your appointed time to:

- Introduce yourselves to the Pre-School Principal and the Parent Liaison Team
- Familiarise yourself with your child's classroom
- Meet your child's classroom teachers

- Tour the shared learning spaces around the pre- school – including the garden area

During this visit discuss with your child the many things they may do in the learning spaces throughout their day.

Talk with them about what your morning drop off routine will be like. How will they arrive, who will bring them, what will you do when you arrive, etc.

Please note that this is not a day to leave your child, but a time to share together in the familiarisation process.

Beginning Pre-School

The first week of pre-school for your young child has been organised to provide time for the child, (and you), to become familiar with their new surroundings and build trust in the adults who will be working alongside them throughout the day.

We have carefully considered a transition process, (*outlined below*), that respectfully introduces your child to their new environment. This process is compulsory for all families to ensure a smooth start to pre-school.

It is particularly important for the wellbeing of all the children that we work together.

We are kindly requesting your support, understanding and time in this.

Transition Process for Week 1

Please note: Your child's teacher will inform you of your child's times to attend during the interview session the week before pre-school begins.

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| Day 1 | Children attend pre-school for 1 hour with a familiar adult. Your class teachers will allocate you a time to attend in order to keep the group small so they can begin to form a relationship with your child. |
| Day 2 | Children will again attend pre-school for a 1 hour duration in their small group. If you feel your child is ready, we would ask you to leave after a 5 to 10 minute settling period and return by the end of the hour. It is always tempting for an adult to want to stay and watch their child at a distance, but we are requesting that you not do this as it is extremely upsetting for your child if they catch sight of you. It is hard we know, but please we are asking that you trust us. |
| Day 3 - 5 | Children will attend pre-school for a 2 hour period in a slightly bigger social grouping. Please take a 5 to 10 minute period to settle your child and then make it clear to the child that you are leaving. In this way, your child will begin to develop a clear understanding of the “drop off” and “pick up” routine. |

Transition Process for Week 2

- Children will attend pre-school with their full group from this week onwards.

- If you feel your child has adapted quickly to their transition to pre-school we would like to welcome them to their half or full day programme.
- Should they require more time, please work with the teachers to modify your child's day to best suit their needs

Whilst we are hopeful this process will significantly support your child's start at our pre-school, we recognise that all children respond to new situations in different ways. **Your child's teachers will work together with you to facilitate the best start for your child should they require more, or less, familiarisation time.**

Throughout the first few weeks of your child starting with us there will be children in the classroom who will be crying. We believe that we need to respect children's sadness. As each child is different, the adults in the class will be closely observing each child and responding to their needs in the most appropriate way. Please rest assured that we will provide you with an honest reflection of your child's progress in becoming a member of their new class. We will always contact you and request that you return should we feel your child is not coping with their separation from you. Should you have any concerns please feel free to approach staff with your questions.

It is also particularly important that you also acknowledge your emotions. Be kind to yourself and take one day at a time. Always talk to us and let us know how you are feeling.

We look forward to joining with you on this new experience for your family.

Kind regards,

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