

Settling your child into Loretto Nursery Class during the first few days

Settling into a new environment is always difficult, no matter how young or old you are. We appreciate that you may be feeling a little worried about the first few times you leave your child at Loretto Nursery. But there are lots of things you can do to help your child settle quickly with us and feel happy and secure here.

Try to look confident and happy when you drop off your child. Your child will pick up on your emotions: if you appear upset, your child will respond to this.

When you arrive at the setting, please encourage your child to say hello to the staff, and to help your child hang up their coat. Take time to check their pigeonhole and read the notice board.

Aim to make a clean 'break' when you leave your child - try not to linger and go back to them if there are tears. Your child may well cry, but in most cases this only carries on for a few minutes after you have gone. We promise that we will contact you if we cannot settle your child within a reasonable amount of time. Please feel free to give us a call to check that your child has calmed down and is enjoying themselves

Please fill in the "Getting to know you" sheet with your child. That way we can refer to people from home, favourite stories and toys if your child is upset.

Remember that starting in a new environment can be a tiring experience. Your child may seem more tired than usual in the first few days or weeks. Don't worry, this is perfectly normal.

Please be prompt in bringing and collecting your child. If your child is there for our gathering time at the start they will hear the plans for the session. If you are later than the other parents and carers in collecting your child may become distressed or anxious which will hinder their settling in.

Encouraging your child to be independent

Here at Loretto Nursery Class we will support your child in becoming independent and taking care of themselves

You can help us do this by showing your child how to:

- Go to the toilet without being prompted or reminded by an grown-up
- Pulling up/down their own clothing for the toilet
- Use the toilet independently and wipe afterwards
- Wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating
- Hang their coat on their named peg

You can encourage your child by:

- Giving lots of praise when they get it right
- Trying not to respond crossly when they have an accident or make a mistake
- Talking about why it is important to do things such as washing their hands after using the toilet.

You can also support the work we do by:

- Labelling your child's clothes, bags and shoes with their name or at least initials
- Sending your child with appropriate clothing for the weather. Our nursery playground can get quite chilly, so please don't forget your child's coat! We go outdoors in all weathers so please send wellies on wet days. On sunny days, please ensure your child is wearing sunscreen and brings a hat for protection from the sun.