

Settling In

EYFS: 3.27, 3.73
3.26, 3.72

At Wirral Montessori Academy, we aim to support parents and other carers to help their children settle quickly and easily by giving consideration to the individual needs and circumstances of every child and their families. Our aim is for children to feel safe, stimulated and happy in the academy and to feel secure and comfortable with all staff. We also want parents to have confidence in both their children's continued well-being and their role as active partners, with the child being able to benefit from what the academy has to offer.

All our staff know about the importance of building strong attachments with children. They are trained to recognise the different stages of attachment and use this knowledge to support children and families settling in to the academy.

Our academy will work in partnership with parents to settle their child into the Montessori environment by:

- Allocating a key person to each child and his/her family, before he/she starts to attend. The key person welcomes and looks after the child ensuring that their care is tailored to meet their individual needs. He/she offers a settled relationship for the child and builds a relationship with his/her parents during the settling in period and throughout his/her time at the academy, to ensure the family has a familiar contact person to assist with the settling in process
- Providing parents with relevant information about the policies and procedures of the academy
- Encouraging parents and children to visit the academy during the weeks before an admission is planned
- Planning settling in visits and introductory sessions (lasting approximately 1-2 hours). These will be provided free of charge over a one or two week period, dependent on individual needs, age and stage of development
- Settling in visits and introductory sessions are key to a smooth transition and to ensure good communication and information sharing between staff and parents
- Reassuring parents whose children seem to be taking a long time settling in to the academy and developing a plan with them
- Assigning a back-up key person to each child in case the key person is not available. Parents will be made aware of this to support the settling process and attachment
- Reviewing the nominated key person if the child is bonding with another member of staff to ensure the child's needs are supported
- Respecting the circumstances of all families, including those who are unable to stay for long periods of time in the academy and reassure them of their child's progress towards settling in

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the academy	Date for review
<i>May 2017</i>		<i>April 2018</i>