

Attendance Policy

At Unity Nursery we understand and value the importance of regular attendance in the early years, to support and encourage child's learning and development.

It is our aim to give each and every child the best start possible within their lifelong learning journey.

Regular attendance supports children with:

- Developing positive relationships with peers and caregivers outside of the family unit
- A sense of belonging and being valued as a member of the nursery 'family'
- A secure environment in which the children feel safe
- Boundaries and routines to support in preparation for starting mainstream school
- A positive outlook on learning and accessing learning environments
- Accessing frequent and purposeful learning opportunities targeted specifically to support and extend their learning and developmental progress
- Helps prevent families falling into a pattern of bad habits prior to starting school

Nursery Absences

We understand that on occasions children may be too ill to attend nursery. On these occasions it is the parent's responsibility, to contact the nursery directly, before the session begins, all reasons given for absence must be recorded by the nursery as part of the free funding agreements.

Parents are asked not to pass messages through other parents or members of staff, absences can be notified by telephone, text, email or personal visit.

If a child is receiving the free nursery entitlement, all attendance may be checked by the local authority and parents may be charged for absences if it is deemed to be an unacceptable reason.

Poor attendance could also result in the free childcare being withdrawn by the Local Authority.

Poor attendance due to regular illness may result in referral to the health visitor for assessment of their medical needs impacting on their learning.

If a child's attendance is below 80% in any term, parents will be contacted and if no reasonable explanation is given, the nursery reserve the right to withdraw the childcare.

Things to consider

The Early Years Foundation Stage uses observation, assessment and planning to support children in their learning and development. Your child's Early Years Teacher along with their key person observes your child on a regular basis and then carefully plans new opportunities to extend their

learning. Missing nursery could mean that an activity or experience carefully planned specifically for your child could be missed, this means by the time they are next in nursery the learning opportunity could be lost.

Research has shown that children who rarely miss sessions at nursery and come in on time are more likely to feel good about themselves. They develop a clear understanding of boundaries, what to expect, feel more confident with the adults and the other children, and this provides more opportunities to be valued and praised for their own special contribution to nursery life.

Underachievement in school is often linked to lower attendance, for some children this is linked to a steadily deteriorating trend in attendance which is traceable right back to their time in nursery.

Support

If a parent / carer has concerns regarding attendance please come and speak to the nursery manager as soon as possible and we will offer whatever support we can.

The complaints procedure

If there is a concern regarding the implementation of this policy in the first instance please follow the complaints policy.

Monitoring and Evaluating the policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislative changes or circumstances deem it necessary.