

Arrival of Children – Awake and Alert Policy

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, emotional wellbeing, and safe sleep practice, we kindly ask that all children arrive at nursery awake and alert at the start of their session.

We understand that mornings can be busy, particularly with younger babies. However, welcoming children while they are awake helps us ensure a safe, calm, and positive start to their day.

Why we ask children to arrive awake

1. Emotional Wellbeing and Secure Transitions

For babies and young children, being able to see their parent or carer say goodbye is an important part of developing trust and security. Arriving awake allows children to:

- Experience a predictable and reassuring handover
- Begin their day calmly with their key person
- Reduce distress that can occur if they wake in an unfamiliar environment

2. Safeguarding and Health Checks

On arrival, staff carry out visual wellbeing checks and discuss any relevant information with parents. If a child is asleep, we are unable to:

- Fully assess their general wellbeing
- Observe alertness levels
- Identify any visible signs of illness or injury

Arriving awake supports our duty of care and safeguarding responsibilities.

3. Safe Sleep Practice

In line with our safe sleep procedures:

- Children are only put to sleep in designated sleep areas
- Regular sleep checks are carried out
- Sleep routines are managed by trained staff

Car seats and pushchairs are not considered safe sleep spaces within the nursery setting. For this reason, we are unable to accept children who are already asleep on arrival.

4. Staffing and Supervision

Morning arrival is a busy period, and ensuring children arrive awake allows staff to manage ratios effectively while providing appropriate attention and support to each child.

Exceptional Circumstances

We recognise that occasionally circumstances may be beyond your control. In these instances, please speak with a member of the management team so we can consider the situation appropriately.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and nurturing environment for all children. If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to speak to us.