

# Parents as Partners and the role of Special Carers.

## Reviews and Amendments:

• Implemented	02 <sup>nd</sup> January 2013	Laura Leigh Wayman
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• Reviewed	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Laura Leigh Wayman
• Reviewed	29 <sup>th</sup> may 2016	Sara Bradley
• Reviewed	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Carla Gibson

# Child's Play Private Nursery Ferryhill

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## Policies and Procedures

### **Parents as Partners and the role of Special Carers.**

*“Early years practitioners have a key role to play in working with parents to support their children.”*  
(DCSF, 2008, p6)

Child's Play Private Nursery truly believe establishing strong relationships with parents/ carers is the most important way of ensuring all of the children's needs are met, as ultimately they are the child's number one educator and they know their child better than us. We strive to achieve and provide a 'home from home' service- to ensure this we provide a Special Carer system which is designed to help build up this relationship from the word go initially through 'transition visits.' Parents are welcomed into the setting for visits, so that they can educate the special carer about their child and start to form relationships. This will support the children's emotional well-being and develop their sense of self and self assurance.

All children are allocated a special carers when joining the nursery. Special carers are selected on the basis of the parents and the child's personal preference and personal bonds. This Special Carer coordinate information about the individual child's needs and development and shares this with parents and other nursery practitioners to maintain consistency and continuity of care. The Special carer also provides a vital link with parents and carers and is often crucial in settling children into the setting and when making the transition to the next room. The special carer makes sure that, within the day-to-day demands of the nursery, each child for who, they have special responsibility feels individual, cherished, and though about by someone in particular while they are away from home. The special carer ensures they have the opportunity to build a personal relationship with an individual child rather than all children as a group in the setting.

Special carers are consistently available and responsive to their key children and their families and as a result rotas are based on when a special carer is available for each child. Working a four day week ensures this continuity of care. Throughout the child's experience at nursery, there will be plenty of time given to special carers to share information with parents. Information will always be

exchanged during informal spontaneous, but very valuable chats when the parent drops off or in particular when they pick up their child from nursery.

The role here also involves keeping up to date the child's learning journey. This is a process of observation, planning, assessing, analyzing and reviewing and above all else s celebration of the children's magic moments at nursery. Although we do not have parents evenings you are able to raise any concerns or simply find out in a bit more detail how your child is doing at nursery at any point thanks to our 'Open door policy', and in turn you will have an opportunity to share your child's learning journey with your child's special carer.

The main reason our observations, learning journey, assessments and planning systems are so effective is also down to the elements of 'child initiated learning' which also involves the discussion with parents and carers in finding out what is happening at home, if a child is showing a particular interest in something we can plan to continue the learning and interest here at the nursery. Special Carers will also encourage parents and families to document such things in the child's learning journey via a 'home story'.

The benefits of our system are a peace of mind for parents and families, and the ability for partnership building with professional staff. It provides opportunities for liaise with someone else who loves your baby or child too- we want to be an extended part of the family.

From Spring 2014, our partnership working will be strengthened by our 'Parental Login Domains' which have been included on the settings website [www.childsplayprivatenursery.co.uk](http://www.childsplayprivatenursery.co.uk) the domain allows 24/7 access to their child's documents and photos, the domain will also allow families to upload photos of home learning experiences direct. The domain also boasts a direct messenger service too.

**Policies linked to this:**

- Parental Login Domains Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Documentation Policy
- Assessment for Learning Policy
- Cuddle up/ open door policy