WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As an Early Years Setting it is important that we work in partnerships with many people to ensure we can provide the best care for your child. This means working closely with you, as parents/guardians, and also with other settings and professionals that can provide support and guidance about the best ways to care for each individual child at the setting.

Working in Partnership with Parents:

It is very important for your child that we work in partnership. This will give your child continuity of care, expectations of behaviour and boundaries which will help them settle more easily, feel more secure, loved and supported and support all areas of their learning, development and wellbeing.

One of the four overarching principles of the EYFS Statutory Framework states that:

"Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers."

As parents/guardians you are the central adults in your child's life and the ones making decisions on their behalf. We will endeavour to work closely with you in order to carry out your wishes for your child. It is therefore important that we have an effective communication system. We appreciate that you may be in a rush when you drop off or collect your child. We, therefore, use an online app system called Famly, that allows us to share information about your child's day and can be used as a 2-way communication between parents and key carers. The app will show what/how much your child has eaten, nap times, nappy changes and information about the activities during the day.

This app can also be used by yourselves to inform staff of any information that may help us to provide your child with the best care we can. However, we do ask that in the case of medication requirements or other concerns such as informing of an accident, that you do this in person when you drop off your child. This will ensure that if we have any questions that need clarifying we can do so before you go, to ensure the best possible care for your child.

As your child grows and develops matters will crop up that are very important for us to discuss in order that we can work together and your wishes be incorporated into our care routine for your child. These could include weaning, potty training, managing behaviour, starting another setting etc.

We will keep you up-to-date with the progress and developmental stages of your child throughout their time at Little Steps in order for us to work together to support their learning. Children will benefit greatly from a joint approach to supporting their learning and therefore we will do our up-most to provide support with possible activities to do at home that will further support their

progression through the Early Years Foundation Stage. We will provide Termly Assessments so that you are kept aware of what areas your child's key carer will be focusing on with your child. On these reports there will be a section for you to add comments to let them know of any progress witnessed at home or any areas of concern.

If you wish us to incorporate a special activity into your child's routine, perhaps a festival or religious holiday that you celebrate please let your child's key carer know so that you can work together to put this in place.

With regard to safeguarding children, it is very important that we share any concerns we may have about the safety of your child or if we have any worries about child protection issues.

If your child's key carer has any concerns about your child's behaviour, development, eating etc we will share them with you and work with you to seek support from outside agencies if needed.

It is very important that you inform us if there are any changes to contact numbers for yourselves, including work and mobile numbers and those of your emergency contacts.

Multi-Agency Working

To ensure we can provide the best possible care for your child and support for you, we will endeavour to work in partnership with other agencies, for example Pre-schools, Children's Centres, Schools and other professionals that can help us improve the setting and care. These people have a duty to work in partnership with other agencies and will do their best to provide guidance and support to ensure we all work together to best care for you and your family. Outside of Safeguarding legislation, before we contact any other agency about your child we will always ask your permission first. Again, outside of Safeguarding legislation, no information about your family will be shared with anyone unless your permission is given.