

## **Parental Involvement**

### *Policy*

At Harvey Bears we believe that children benefit most from early years if the setting and parents work together.

Our aim is to support parents as their children's first and most important educators by involving them in their children's education and the life of their children's setting.

Some parents are less well represented in early years' settings, this includes fathers, parents who live apart from their children, but still play a part in their at lives, as well as working parents. We will make every effort to include these parents.

The term 'parents' refers to fathers, mothers, both natural and step parents. This also includes same sex and foster parents.

### *Procedures*

- Parents are all made to feel welcome in our setting, they are greeted appropriately.
- We have means to ensure that all parents are included, that may mean that we have different strategies for involving fathers, working parents or parents who live apart from their child/ren.
- We make every effort to involve parents who are impaired or disabled.
- We consult with parents to find out what works best for them.
- We encourage ongoing dialogue with parents to improve our knowledge of their children's needs and to support their families.
- We inform all parents about how the setting is run and its policies and procedures.
- Information about families is kept confidential. We provide families with a privacy notice as to how their data will be kept and processed. The exception is where there is cause to believe that a child may be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. Parental permission will be sought if there are concerns about a child's development and information needs to be shared with an outside agency. Please consult our GDPR policy.
- We seek specific parental permission to administer medication, take a child for emergency treatment, take a child on an outing or take children's photographs.
- We make clear our expectations that parents will take part in the settling in process, according to a pre agreed plan.
- We seek parents' views before making changes to our provision.
- We encourage parents to be involved in the decision making processes by joining the committee.
- We provide sufficient opportunities for parents to share any information about their child with their keyworker.

- Where necessary the keyperson work with parents to support children with special educational needs.
- Where applicable the keyperson works with parents to carry out any agreed tasks where a Protection Plan is in place.
- We involve parents in the record keeping about the children using the Family app.
- We provide opportunities for parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the life of the setting.
- We welcome the contribution of parents of parents in whatever form that may take.
- All parents have access to our complaints policy and procedures.
- We provide opportunities for parents to visit the setting through helping out or taking part in different activities with their child.