



Parents as Partners

Updated 29 January 2020

It is very important for your child that we work in partnership. This will give your child continuity of care and they will not become confused with different standards of behaviour and boundaries.

As parents, you are the central adults in your child's life and the ones making decisions on their behalf. At every stage, we endeavour to work closely with you to bring out the very best in your child. It is therefore important that we communicate effectively.

Your child's teacher is available at drop off and pick up for a brief chat and you can always arrange a longer meeting if necessary. We have parents evening every term where you will meet with your child's teacher for 15 minutes to hear about their learning and development at school. This is also a chance to ask questions and see your child's learning journal. The learning journal consists of photographs, observations and a selection of your child's work. You can request to see it at any time in the year. In the autumn term, Miss Felicity gives a talk for all the parents about learning at Gardens Montessori. If your child starts school with us before they turn three, you will receive a two-year-check. This is a developmental report ensuring your child is working within their expected age range. When you are given the two-year-check you will also have a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss it. You are invited to be present at your child's *birthday walk*. We encourage you to contribute to your child's *My Book About Me*, to take advantage of *Stay and Play* (an opportunity to stay for 20 minutes with your child in the classroom), and to participate in seasonal opportunities such as the Easter bonnet parade, the various autumn religious festivals, and the Christmas play.

We email a weekly newsletter, updating you on what is happening at school, such as trips or project information. Please also check the parents' notice board as this also has important information on it. In addition, our website is a useful source of information about the school as well as containing articles about a range of subjects, a lot of which is accessible via the Useful Info link on the bottom of each page. Photos are uploaded to Instagram. A few times a year we will ask you to fill in a questionnaire about your child. This helps us to keep abreast of what your child is doing at home, as well as allowing us to adjust their individual learning plan appropriately.



We are always happy to discuss your child, and their care, with you at any time that is convenient to us both, whether in person or over the phone. We would appreciate it if you could inform us if there are any changes to your contact numbers, including work and mobile numbers and those of your emergency contacts. We like to know of Any changes at home; for example, a parent being away on business, a death in the family.

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

If you wish us to incorporate a special activity into our routine, perhaps a festival or religious holiday that you celebrate, please let us know.

If we have any concerns about your child's behaviour or development we will share them with you and, if necessary, work with you to seek support from outside agencies so that we can better understand behavioural changes and deal with them appropriately.

If your child is already involved with other support agencies (for example, speech and language therapy), please let us know. With your permission, we may be able to work directly with these organizations to provide a more comprehensive service for your child.

If you have any concerns or issues regarding the care we are providing for your child, please let us know. Often a concern is a simple misunderstanding that can easily be resolved; if un- aired it can fester and become a major issue.

We welcome input into our nursery from parents. Please discuss with the manager or your child's teacher if you would like to help within the provision. This might include reading to the children, coming along on outings, providing specialist information or skills, and providing feedback.

We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you to care for your child.