



**Rationale/Aim:**

Children may have periods of distress on their first day or even after being at the preschool for a while. How this is handled is as individual as each child.

**Relevant Legislation/Related Documents/References:**

- Education & Care Services National Regulations 2014, Regulation 155 & 156
- National Quality Standard, Standard 2.1.
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 Section 165

**Procedures/Strategies:**

Usually parents are encouraged to stay as long as they wish, with the parent and child both becoming involved with an activity. The parent will then leave the child with a staff member when ready to do so. However, when the child is not happy for the parent to leave, staff will discuss the individual circumstances with the parent and come to an agreement on how the parent will separate from the child:

- The staff will make recommendations to assist the parent in making the decision to leave and how it can be done.
- Staff will ensure the parent knows that they are competent and considerate when dealing with children struggling to cope with separation.
- When the parent is ready to leave the child will be handed to a staff member.
- The parent will be advised to say goodbye to the child and leave quickly, stating that they will return and indicating a time.
- The staff member will use appropriate interactions/strategies to settle the child, as per training and policy 5.12 *Interactions with Children*.
- The parent will be advised that it is fine to phone the preschool later if they are concerned about how the child has settled.
- If a parent is particularly distressed at separating from their child, staff may phone to reassure them that the child has settled.
- Staff will always remain positive and reassuring to reduce the stress on the parent.
- When the child is collected at the end of the day the staff member will ensure that the parent is reassured about the child's participation during the day. A work sample or photo story will be provided to the family.

**Evaluation:** Children and their families are treated individually and compassionately, while encouraging independence.

**Endorsement:**

Policy signed: .....

Date: .....

Name: .....

Position: .....

**Review:** March 2020