

09 Early years practice procedures

09.5 Establishing children's starting points

When children start at Cottontails Preschool they arrive at different levels of learning and development. To help them to settle and make rapid progress it is important that they are provided with care and learning opportunities that are suited to their needs, interests and abilities. This means establishing and understanding their starting points and whether there are any obstacles to their learning, so that teaching can be tailored to the 'unique child'.

- The aim of establishing a child's starting points is to ensure that the most appropriate care and learning is provided from the outset.
- Starting points are established by gathering information from the first contact with the child's parents/carers at induction and during the 'settling in' period. Staff do not 'wait and see' how the child is settling before they begin to gather information. (Via Packing your back pack)
- The key person is responsible for establishing their key children's starting points by gathering information (Unpacking the child's back pack)

The information gathered is recorded within two weeks of the child's official start date and sooner where possible.

- The key person must make a 'best fit' judgment about the age band the child is working in, referring to Development Matters or Birth to Five Matters.

If the initial assessment raises any concerns that extra support may be required procedure 09.13 Identification, assessment and support for children with SEND is followed.