

Transition Procedure into Children's House

A warm welcome to Edinburgh Montessori Arts School. We are looking forward to meeting with you and your child and getting to know you. Having received confirmation of your child's place in Children's House, here are the next steps for us and you, to ensure a smooth transition and settling in period for your child and your family.

Introduction Day

Prior to your child's first day, you will receive a welcome pack which will contain a questionnaire and a social story for you to share with your child. The parent handbook is available on our Family communication app. You will receive an email from the office with joining instructions. We will then invite you to an "Introduction Day", which will take place before your child's first day. This is an opportunity for your child to visit the environment, and for you and your child to meet with your child's teacher(s) and have an informal chat. Please bring along the completed development questionnaire as this will form the basis of initial discussions and sharing of information to ensure a smooth transition for your child. During this time, we will add any relevant details to your child's "Personal Plan". We will explain the daily routine, snack/lunch/outdoor routine, what your child needs to bring, methods of communication, reports, updates, progress on learning and Parent Community involvement.

Settling In Period

If your child is starting at the beginning of a new school term in August, their first day will be on the second day of term. Otherwise, an agreed day will be organised to suit your needs. On this day your child will stay for half an hour, with you, to start creating a positive attachment with teachers and the environment. Each subsequent session you may leave for a longer period until your child is happily settled for the full session. This process can take days for some children, while lasting weeks for others. Please understand that this is a large learning curve for your child and he or she should be treated with respect and patience. Children will settle more easily when the parent's departure is predictable, consistent and honest. When you are ready to leave, let your child know and once you have said goodbye, leave. It helps some children if you explain where you are going, so they can imagine what you are doing, for example 'shopping' or 'going for a walk'. School staff recognise how difficult it can be to leave your child for the first time, especially if he is upset; however, it is harder for the child if the upset is repeated several times by the parent returning to comfort them. It is not appropriate to leave without letting your child know as it is distressing for your child when they suddenly cannot find you.

What to bring to school:

Please bring a change of clothes, spare socks, wellies and some warm and waterproof outdoor wear. Please also provide a sun hat and sun cream. All items should be labelled with your child's name. We like to enjoy exploring outside and appropriate clothing is very important for your child's comfort. Please also send or bring a small photo of your child for above his peg in the classroom.