



COUNTESS GYTHA PRESCHOOL

Establishing children's starting points

When children start at the setting they arrive at different levels of learning and development. In order 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 point 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 at the registration visit, via the parent baseline forms which are included within the registration pack and during the 'settling in' period. Staff do not 'wait and see' how the child is settling before they begin to gather information.
- The key person is responsible for establishing their key children's starting points by gathering information in the following ways:
 - Observation of the child
 - Discussion with the child's parents
 - Building on information that has been gathered at registration
 - Building on information gathered via the parent baseline forms which are included within the registration pack.
- The key person must make a 'best fit' judgement about the age band the child is working in, referring to Development Matters or Birth to Five Matters.

Updated: March 2023

Next review date: March 2024