

Bear Club



A Parent's Guide to Our Bear Club to aid transition into the Nursery.
This is based on research from the Parental Engagement Network -
www.penetnetwork.co.uk

Introduction

At Pinxton Nursery School we believe that early years development is the foundation of human adaptability and resilience. Early experiences have a great potential to affect brain development.

The early years are a window of opportunity for parents, caregivers and communities to provide positive early experiences that will have a huge effect on learning, achievement, and wellbeing.

The 'Pinxton Bear Club' project was developed to support staff to develop positive relationships with parents/carers prior to starting our Nursery, and also to support your child's transition into our Nursery.

The project gives you the opportunity to meet the Nursery staff, share your knowledge of your child, their strengths and aptitudes. Staff support your understanding of 'school readiness', providing opportunities for you to meet and engage in a lot of fun activities to ensure your child is ready for learning.

Once children have begun Nursery, staff will support you to provide a stimulating home learning environment.

Why engage parents?

What the research says:

- 'What parents do is more important than who they are for children's early development; i.e. home learning activities undertaken by parents is more important for children's intellectual and social development than parental occupation, education or income.' *The impact of parental involvement on a child's education DCSF (2008)*
- Parents' involvement in home learning activities makes an important difference to children's attainment. *Sylva et al 2010, EPPE 3000 children*

Aims of the Bear Club transition project

- To help staff build positive relationships with your family
- To help you understand how you can help your child get ready for and settle into Nursery (including sleep, healthy diet, play, developing routines etc.)
- To give you the opportunity to develop your confidence and skills to support your child's learning
- To help you build relationships with staff and support each other.

The project has been developed for Nursery staff to develop and sustain effective working relationships with parents and carers. You are the first educators and know your children best.

Bear Club is an invitation to your family to work in partnership to prepare your child for their exciting next steps on their learning journey at Pinxton Nursery School.

Staff will explain the project to you, and will provide home learning activities for you to do with your child. You will receive some in this pack, and more will be added onto our website over the summer. We'd love for you to share how you are getting on by sharing pictures and ideas on our Facebook page or via email.

Strategies for Bear Club at Home

Home visiting

Staff will visit your home to drop off a bear and a special invitation for your child. There will also be some activities to complete with your child and their bear. We will also have the opportunity to chat about your child, Pinxton Bear and any specific needs/ support your child will need prior to starting at Nursery, e.g. toilet training. We aim to build a positive relationship with you and your child.

Leaflets for parents getting children school-ready

Staff will talk you through Derbyshire County Council's 10 Keys to School Readiness, explaining any areas which you think your child may need more support with.

Bear Activities

You will receive some activity sheets to do at home with your child, these will include simple activities such as singing songs and outside activities. One of these activities will be to decorate your bear - maybe you could colour his t-shirt or make him a hat or a bandana?

Strategies for Bear Club at Nursery

Bear Activities

We will follow this up in Nursery by focussing on Bear related stories and activities when the children begin Nursery. We will have Bear houses for the children's bears to live in at Nursery, and children will be allowed their bears for comfort while at Nursery. Please note: other toys and things from home will not be allowed.

We will also hold a Teddy Bears picnic for our new starters and encourage them to talk about their bears, such as their names, what they have done with their bears. If you would like to share pictures this would be brilliant.

We can't wait to meet with and work with you and your child!