

FAMILIES - ORIENTATION

POLICY

It is important for the success of a placement that an orientation process is followed. This process recognises the needs and rights of a child to feel secure and confident and is based on our understanding of child development. It also recognises the rights of the parents as the primary care providers of the child, and the emotional stresses that leaving a child in the care of another person can cause.

PROCEDURE

1. The family's needs and concerns should be discussed at the initial interviews with the Coordination Unit and Educator. All questions and concerns should be treated respectfully and considered advice and explanations offered
2. The Handbook contains a range of strategies for the family and Educator to consider – the actual procedure may vary depending on the age, temperament and previous care experience of the child.
3. Parents must have the opportunity to be shown the FDC environment and Educators should discuss or show examples of normal routines and programs and explain how they plan for and track each child's development. Educators and families should discuss the process of settling the child into care, and parents should be reassured that they can stay with the child for a reasonable settling period and are advised on how to build up the duration of the child's stay.
4. The progress of the placement will be monitored by the Educator and any concerns passed on to the Coordination Unit. If the child is not settling a meeting with Educator, parents and Coordinator may be arranged, and possible strategies discussed.
5. In all cases the Coordination Unit will send out a survey to new parents within 2 months of commencement of care, or may make a phone call or speak to the parents directly if this is deemed more appropriate, in order to gain feedback on the progress of the placement.