



Orientation Policy

We want to assure you that The Rumpus Room is committed to providing a child safe environment, and the safety and protection of children is our highest priority.

Explanation:

We understand that parents may feel anxious about leaving their child in the care of someone else when first placing their children in care.. The staff at The Rumpus Room are here to help and support the parents and children throughout this time.

Implementation:

Children enrolled to start the following year are invited to make an appointment to visit the centre and meet the staff with their parents.

Families who start midyear particularly, or where children are having difficulty separating, are encouraged to gradually settle their children into the Centre.

Short stays for children with parents/carers by their side before enrolment commences can be beneficial to ensure children feel familiar and safe within their new environment

Mornings between 9:30am and 11:30am are recommended as it is “activity time”, when children have the best opportunity to participate in their new environment and become familiar with the staff, children and the surrounds.

We are flexible and happy to tailor the settling in process to the needs of the child and parents.

Our orientation procedures enable children and parents to become familiar with the Centre staff, and to discuss the child’s individual needs and routines.

Parents are welcome to telephone during the day to check on their child’s progress during the first couple of weeks.

SEPARATION – what to expect

Most infants up to age 6 to 8 months make a smooth transition to another adult. (Leaving is often harder for the parent)

A child between 6-8 months and 3 years may scream, cry or cling when you say goodbye, often this does not last for a long period of time – and we will always contact you if your child becomes too distressed.



Children of this age need more experience to be sure they can trust you to come back. If you look on the new arrangement as the best for everyone in your family, children 3 to 6 generally adapt quite well.

Establish a comfortable routine

The night before your child's first day, involve your child in the process of packing their bag. Allow them to help pick clothes or pack their "Child Care Bag". Please remember your child's hat.

Ensure you leave home with plenty of time to spare so you are not in a big rush when you arrive at the Centre.

Saying Goodbye

Each day take time to see your child gets settled comfortably. Set up some arrival routines, sign in together, put belongings away, wave goodbye at the door. Always say goodbye. Be sure to say when you'll be back eg. "After you have had afternoon tea".

Going Home

On the way home some children will want to talk about the day, others won't. Be ready to listen. Children may like to hear briefly about your day.

This policy links to the following:

National Quality Standards: 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.3.2
See Appendix 1 National Law (section) and National Regulations (regulation 177)
Office of the Children's Guardian; Child Safe Standards.