



Parents and Carers as Partners Statement

At The Nature Box, We believe that in order for children to receive quality care and early learning that suits their individual needs, parents and staff need to work together in a close partnership. The two-way sharing of information is key to this. The team welcomes parents and carers as partners and this relationship needs to be built on trust and understanding. It is important that we, as practitioners, are able to support parents in an open and sensitive manner.

The Nature Box wishes to ensure parents are an integral part of the care and learning team.

Our policy is to:

- Recognise and support parents as their child's first and most important educators, and to welcome them into life at Forest School.
- Welcome all parents at any time.
- Welcome nursing mothers. Our site has a private area available whenever needed to offer space and privacy to nursing mothers.
- Ensure that all parents are aware of the policies and procedures. A detailed parent prospectus will be provided, and our full policy documents will be available to parents at all times available on site.
- Maintain regular contact with parents to help us to build a secure and beneficial working relationship for their children.
- Inform parents about the range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, the types of snacks provided for children and events through regularly distributed updates and blogs.
- Operate a key carer system to the best of our ability to enable a close working relationship with all parents. Parents are given the name of the key carer of their child and their role when the child starts. Support two-way information sharing regarding each child's individual needs both at Forest School and at home.
- Inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress and involve them in the shared record keeping.
- Consider and discuss all suggestions from parents concerning the care and early learning of their child.
- Provide opportunities and support for all parents to contribute their own skills, knowledge and interests to the activities at Forest School.
- Inform all parents of the systems for registering queries, compliments, complaints or suggestions, and to check that these systems are understood by parents. All parents have access to our written complaint's procedure.

- Provide opportunities for parents to learn about the Early Years Foundation Stage and about young children's learning at Forest School and how parents can share learning at home and where they can access further information.
- Provide a written contract between the parent(s) and The Nature Box regarding conditions of acceptance and arrangements for payment.
- Respect the family's religious and cultural backgrounds and beliefs and to accommodate any special requirements wherever possible and practical to do so.
- Inform parents how The Nature Box supports children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Find out the needs and expectations of parents. These will be obtained through regular feedback via questionnaires, suggestion system and encouraging parents to review working practices. These are then evaluated by staff to promote good practice, policy and staff development.