

Settling into the nursery

Departure from the recommended induction schedule is allowed in cases of synchronizing the child's daily home routine with the nursery routine, with respect to the unity of the child and the family.

The induction stage is minimum two weeks and is aimed at giving the child the opportunity to explore the new environment, get familiar with the nursery's daily routine and get used to it. The induction process allows the children to experience and practice brief separations that help to learn how to cope with separation anxiety and also helps to become predictable when reunited with the parent.

In these two weeks the early childhood educator gradually takes over care and education responsibilities whilst respecting the child's identity, physical, cognitive, emotional and social needs. It takes about three months for the child to get used to the nursery. In this period psychological changes may happen which should be handled with understanding and patience at nursery as well as at home. This is the first integration into the community that will be crucial to the child's life.

In case of a new group both educators are allowed to carry out the induction process at the same time, though it is recommended to leave a gap between the arrivals. If it is possible siblings and twins should be looked after by the same educator.

FIRST WEEK

Day 1

Arrival around 10 am. The parent is invited in the group, spends the morning with the child, all the care and education duties are carried out by the parent and watched by the educator in order to be able to personalize the induction. After the lunch is being tasted, the parent offers the food to the child, after lunch parent and child leave the group.

Day 2

Arrival around 9.30 am. The parent stays in the group the whole time, the educator observes the interactions between the child and the parent, whilst tries to open towards the child.

Day 3

Arrival by 9 am. The parent stays in the group the whole time, the educator tries to connect with the child. The child has his/her morning snack in the group offered by the parent. The care and the education duties are carried out by the parent.

Day 4

Arrival by 8 am. The parent stays in the group. The child has breakfast offered by the parent and the morning snack can be offered by the educator. If the child allows it, the educator changes the diaper in the presence of the parent. The lunch is offered by the educator in the presence of the parent. After lunch both parent and child leave the group.

Day 5

Same as the day before, except that the parent leaves the group for a short time.

SECOND WEEK

Day 6

Arrival by 8 am. Same as on day 5. After lunch the bed is being showed to the child in the presence of the parent.

Day 7

Arrival by 8 am. Depending on child's cooperation, after the morning snack the parent leaves the group. All the care and education duties are done by the educator, while the parent waits in the changing area and if it is needed, goes back to the group. In the presence of the parent the educator offers the bed to the child, and the child can decide whether she/he wants to sleep there or not.

Day 8

Arrival by 8 am. The parent is there for the child's breakfast, then leaves the group. All the care and education duties are done by the educator. The parent comes back by lunch time and waits in the changing area. The educator offers the bed to the child. If the child falls asleep, the parent could wait in the changing area until the child wakes up. While the parent is away it is recommended to stay close to the phone. The parent and the child can stay as long as the situation requires, for example, the child does not want to take a nap in the nursery and wants to go home; or takes a nap and after waking up she/he prefers to go home; or would like to have an afternoon snack after waking up, etc.

Day 9

Arrival by 8 am – same as on day 8.

Day 10

Arrival by 8 am. All the care and education duties are carried out by the educator during the day. The parent stays close to the phone just in case the child needs to be taken home, or may stay at the nursery for a little while. After the afternoon snack the parent takes the child home.

This is an average induction schedule. As children are different, so are their needs during the induction stage.