



## **Separated Family**

At Puss 'n' Boots Day Nursery, it is a difficult time when parents separate for all concerned. This policy sets out how we support all parties within the nursery including our team. The key person will work closely with the parents which will provide support the child's/children's emotional needs and will discuss any changes in their child's behaviour. We will offer support to any services we feel the family would benefit from.

### Parental responsibility

While the law does not define what parental responsibility is, the following list sets out some of the key features of someone holding parental responsibility. These are:

- Choosing and providing for the child's education
- Discipline the child
- Determining the religion of the child
- Providing a home for the child
- Protecting and maintaining the child
- Agreeing to the child's medical treatment
- Having contact with and living with the child
- Being responsible for the property of the child
- Naming the child and agreeing to any change of the child's name
- Appointing a guardian for the child
- Allowing confidential information about the child to be disclosed
- Accompany the child outside the UK

In England if the parents of a child are married to each other at the time of birth, or they have jointly adopted a child, then they both have parental responsibility. Parents do not lose this responsibility if they divorce; this applies to resident and non-resident parent.

This is not automatically the case for unmarried parents. In current law, a mother always has parental responsibility for her child. However, a father has this responsibility only if he is married to the mother when the child is born or has acquired legal responsibility for this child through one of these three routes;

- By jointly registering the birth of the child with the mother (from Dec 2003)
- By parental responsibility agreement with the mother
- By parental responsibility order, made by a court.

## Nursery registration and enrolment forms

During the registration process we collect details about both parents and who has parental responsibility.

If a parent does not have parental responsibility or has a court order in place, we must have a copy of this documentation which will be attached to the child's records.

If a child is registered by one parent of a separated family, we request all relevant details relating to the child and other parent e.g. court order or injunctions. We can then support the child and family by the policy below:

- The child's welfare is first priority at all times
- Comply with any court order as long as we have seen and have a copy of it relating to the child's attendance at nursery
- Invite both parents to all nursery events where both hold parental responsibility
- Ensure any incident or accident is reported to the person collecting the child
- All information relating to the parents separation remain confidential
- No member of staff take sides regarding to the separation and treats both parents equally
- Not restrict access to any parent with parental responsibility unless a formal court order is in place. We ask no parents to put us in this position.

We ask Parents to:

- Provide us with all relevant information – court orders, injunctions etc.
- Update any information that changes the above as soon as possible.
- Work with the nursery so we can ensure the continued care and support for your child
- Do Not involve nursery staff in any family disputes, unless this impacts on the care we would give the child
- Talk to a member of the team away from the child when it is related to family separation so the child does not become upset This can be done in the office if needed
- Not ask the nursery to take sides during a dispute. We will always take the side of the child who requires us to be neutral at all times.