

Early Years Engagement Worker - Feedback on work with families

Tyla undertakes the following duties:

- make contact with families to encourage take up of a nursery place
- carry out home visits to offer support with completing application forms and provide information on the process/ benefits of nursery and answer any questions
- make contact with the parents' chosen nursery to arrange visits, accompany families to nursery visit and help complete necessary paperwork if needed
- attend nursery visits if needed to support parent and child until settled and happy
- work closely with professionals (eg. Social workers, Health visitors, Outreach teams and Early Help Officers) to support families they are working with who may be eligible, and keep up to date with progress
- attend children's centres, libraries and community events to promote the offer, provide information/support and answer general questions

There is generally a good response from families, who are keen to know more detail about the offer and the support offered by Tyla.

Queries from families can include:

- do they have to use all 15 hours offered?
- worried about which nursery to choose?
- will it affect their benefits?

Parents often feel an element of guilt for being at home whilst their child attends nursery at 2yrs but once Tyla discusses the benefits for the child and parent it does offer some reassurance.

Reasons for non-take up can include parents being worried that 15 hours is too much for children who have just turned 2yrs old.

The main reason for non-take up appears to be if a child has a disability parents are reluctant to send them to nursery.

Some parents are just happy to have their children at home and enjoy the time with them before school nursery.