

Jellytots Attendance Policy

Children learn and develop more from birth to five years than at any other time in their lives and any gaps in their learning by the end of the Early Years will, on average, double by the end of primary schooling.

At Jellytots, we have a very important role to play in encouraging and establishing good attendance habits. This is vital both in ensuring that our children make the best possible progress and that any gaps in learning are minimised. We aim to establishing good habits that will continue throughout their education and into later life.

Good attendance practice promotes good outcomes for children including accessing their educational entitlement, supporting their learning and development, developing social skills and forming secure attachments. In a small minority of cases, good attendance practice may also lead to the earlier identification of more serious concerns for a child or family and may have a vital part to play in keeping a child or other family members safe from harm. **If we feel that this is becoming or is a safeguarding concern, we will refer the concern to 'Contact Swindon'.**

At Jellytots, we aim to encourage good attendance practice and understand the importance of good attendance by our children and that the following messages are shared with our parents.

Good attendance in the early years leads to:

- The best opportunities for social development, including making friends and learning how to get on with others
- The best opportunities for children to learn and develop their skills and learn through play; this includes early language, reading and maths skills
- The development of good habits for future school attendance and good attendance and punctuality skills into adulthood

Jellytots supports good attendance habits by:

- Developing positive and open relationships with parents and carers, including sharing children's achievements and offering opportunities for parents to share any concerns
- Communicating the importance of regular attendance with parents and carers
- Maintaining an expectation that parents and carers inform staff of any absences and the reasons for them. This can be done via e-mail, text or verbally. **Please see our Funding and Non Payment of Fee's Policy.**
- At Jellytots, we will contact parents/carers when there are instances of unexplained absence seeking assurance about the child's safety and welfare.
- Discussing any support that we may be able to offer if children's absence falls below the expected level. This may include support for the family such as early help or referral to other services as appropriate.

Parents can encourage good attendance by:

- Having a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Preparing for the morning routine by packing their bag the night before and setting out clothes
- Talking together about all the fun their child will have at Jellytots
- Having a back-up plan for getting to Jellytots if something happens
- Arranging routine medical appointments, outings and holidays for the times their child does not attend Jellytots, if possible
- Talking to their child's key worker if there are any concerns or anxieties
- Working with their child to develop healthy hygiene practices