

Inclusion/SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Policy

Our Nursery aims to respect the SEND/DFE code of Practice on special educational needs and also to the guidelines supplied to private and voluntary providers of nursery education. We aim to provide a welcome and appropriate learning opportunity, for all children.

- We incorporate children and young people as well as the rights of parents and carers, students and all staff. It includes individuals with special educational needs and/or a disability, as well as those from minority ethnic groups; travellers; and any other diverse cultural groups. It also includes those with English as an additional language and looked after Children. Those with specific medical needs; suffering from low self-esteem; or experiencing mental health difficulties are also included.
- At Little Stars Nursery we aim to provide an early year's inclusive environment, where all children are welcomed whatever their needs.
- We ensure that parents are informed at all stages of the assessment, planning, provision and review of their children's education. Our manager and SENCO are continually reviewing and updating this data which is also monitored by the area SENCO. The new **Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice** is in place and includes the new SEN support programme. We now follow the latest Early Years Alliance SEN 2023 policy document.
- All children have a right to expect to learn in a caring and considerate environment where the staff and the children are all valued for their contribution to pre-nursery life.
- The pre-nursery will provide, within available resources, the highest possible quality support and inclusive education for children with SEND.
- All children irrespective of special educational need; disability; mental health or medical need; race; culture; class; creed; sexual orientation; gender or social status have the right to express their needs and have them met.
- We liaise with other professionals involved with the children with special educational needs and their families, including transition arrangements to other settings and nursery's.
- Our aim is to provide for the developmental needs of each child in the group.
- All children in the group, irrespective of their special needs, are encouraged wherever possible and appropriate to participate in all the group's activities.
- We use a system of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing individual plans for children with special education needs.
- The needs and progress of children who have special educational needs are monitored by our group's two SENCO co-ordinators and our area SENCO for Inclusion.
- Our key person system ensures that each child receives plenty of adult time and attention.

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- We work closely with the parents of all the children in the group to ensure that:
 - the group draws upon the knowledge and expertise of parents in planning provision for the child.
 - the child's progress and achievements are shared and discussed with parents on an informal basis and on request.
 - parents know the identity of the group's special educational needs co-ordinator.
 - parents are aware of the arrangements for the admission and integration of children with special educational needs.
- We also have regard to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA policy) and the two core duties which are:-
 - Not to treat disabled children less favourably than other children.
 - To make "reasonable" adjustments in order to avoid putting disabled children at a substantial disadvantage.
- If it is felt that a child's needs cannot be met in the Nursery without additional personnel and/or equipment, funding will be sought to ensure that provision is appropriate to the child's needs.
- We work in liaison with relevant professionals and agencies outside the group to meet children's specific needs.
- Our staff attends up to date training on special needs arranged by the Bexley Services Network (BSN) and other professional bodies.
- The setting SENCO is Pat. Our Deputy SENCO Amy has direct responsibility for children with specific medical and care plans. Amy is in training to provide extra support in this area. We will be undertaking Bexley's new training in September 2023.
- Whilst we monitor and review our policy annually, changes are planned which will require these to be updated.
- We as a nursery are using the new EHC (Educational Health Care) plans and liaise closely with the relevant parties at all levels. We hold all care review meetings with all the professional bodies, with whom we have a very good relationship, established over several years,
- We adopt all the new SEND support plans and Graduated Approaches to secure funding and EHCP's.
- As from September 2023, we continue with "Talk boost". This is to help with Speech & language, and we have 3 staff qualified to implement this. This has proven very successful.