

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy



Introduction

At Little Peaks we recognise that all children have the right to access the activities we provide, and we will make reasonable adjustments wherever possible to ensure inclusivity for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We will work closely with parents and other agencies to monitor the child's progress carefully and provide effective, additional support to meet the child's needs.

Our aims

- To ensure that all staff, including students and volunteers are aware of the details of the send policy.
- To ensure we are working with due regard to the current SEND Code of Practice.
- To adapt, modify and develop activities through planning to ensure children can access all activities.
- To ensure the physical environment is suitable for the child and make reasonable adaptations to fit the needs of the individual.
- To challenge inappropriate attitudes and practices
- To identify the necessary provision and staff arrangements to meet the special needs of all children.
- To promote diversity and difference and encourage children to value and respect others.

Our responsibilities

- To ensure the aims of the SEND policy are reflected in the practice of the setting.
- To ensure that the needs of all the children with SEND are being included in all aspects of the nursery planning, practice and assessment.
- To support staff and keep them well informed of developments in relation to SEND.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for children with SEND.
- To ensure staff development through staff training and course feedback at staff meetings.
- To ensure effective liaisons with parents and external agencies
- To support staff when writing support plans when appropriate and set realistic targets for the child.
- To set dates for evaluations and reviews, whilst working in partnership with parents/carers, ensuring copies of written reports are available to parents/carers.
- To support staff when liaising with external agencies.
- Undertake formal Progress Checks and Assessments of all children in accordance with the SEND code of practice.

How does Little Peaks Day Nursery identify children who might have SEND?

As a childcare provider, we are aware that some children may have SEND and may require additional support to access the curriculum, to learn and make progress. All staff have good knowledge of child development. Little Peaks will monitor all children in the setting and use age related expectations to guide the support offered. If Little Peaks feel that a child requires additional support or has difficulties in accessing the curriculum at the expected level, we will monitor, keep observational notes and share our concerns with parents/carers as soon as possible. We will discuss with Little Peaks **SENCO (Sam Hiley)** what support can be provided, as well as the possibility of referring the child for support from external agencies, if appropriate.

How we support children with SEND

Graduated Response

We follow a graduated approach to assessment and planning, led and coordinated by a SENCO. Good practice of working together with parents/carers, and the observation and monitoring of children's individual progress, will help identify any child with special educational needs or disabilities. This graduated approach will be led and coordinated by the SENCO and appropriate records will be kept according to the Code of Practice.

The "graduated approach" to SEND support is based on 4 stages:

1. **Assess:** carry out an analysis of the child's needs, with the help of external professionals where necessary, and review it regularly to ensure support is matched to need.
2. **Plan:** agree, in consultation with parents/carers, the outcomes sought for the child, what will be put in place to achieve these, the expected impact and a clear date for review.
3. **Do:** implement the interventions or programmes as agreed. The early years practitioner (usually the child's key worker) remains responsible for working with the child daily, but the SENCO should support them.
4. **Review:** regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the support provided and agree any changes to outcome and support in line with findings with parents/carers.

Partnerships with parents

At Little Peaks Day Nursery, we adopt a team around the family approach.

Parents and carers are valued as the child's first and foremost educator. We seek to build positive relationships with parents as partners and ensure time is made to meet and share information about the child's needs and strengths. This is done through parent's evenings/ termly reviews. We check that parents understand the graduated procedure of intervention and that they are aware of the stage their child is at and what support they can expect.

The SENCO, management and staff ensure that there is consistent communication and consultation with parents.

We consult with parents about information that should be shared with others.

Transitions

All children at Little Peaks Day Nursery are part of a thorough transition process.

When transitioning between rooms, detailed information sheets are completed by the child's current key worker so that their new key worker has as much information as possible. The SENCO will also liaise with the new key worker to offer support and guidance.

Links are made with other settings and schools to ensure transition is as smooth as possible for all children.

Teachers from the child's receiving school will be invited into the nursery to meet with the child and parent and discuss information regarding the child's additional needs.

The child's key worker will then obtain photos of the child's new setting and will develop a transition booklet for the child.

The child's progress record within the EYFS and other relevant information will be shared/forwarded to the new setting/school with the relevant permissions from parents/carers.

What if Little Peaks Day Nursery is unable to provide a child with SEND requires?

If Little Peaks feel that we are unable to meet a child's needs due to lack of funding, resources, training, external support, staff time, etc, we will need to review the suitability of the childcare place. It may be in the best interests of the child for parents/carers to find alternative childcare, in a setting that is better equipped or has a higher ratio of staff per child. Any such issues will be discussed with parents /carers at the earliest opportunity, and they will be given a reasonable amount of time to find childcare that is more suitable. However, if anyone's safety and/or wellbeing is at serious risk, the contract may need to be terminated with immediate effect.

We at Little Peaks Nursery endeavour to provide a safe, welcoming and inviting space for all children to thrive and reach their full potential. The above will only ever be considered if we feel we cannot meet the needs of that child.