

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

I am committed to providing an inclusive environment where every child is valued, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

I understand that children develop at different rates and that some children may have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or may require additional support.

I have previously cared for children with SEND and understand the importance of adapting my provision to meet individual needs.

If I have concerns about a child's development, progress, or ability to access activities, I will observe the child, record relevant information, and discuss my observations with their parents/carers. I will work in partnership with parents to identify the child's strengths and needs and agree appropriate next steps.

I will make reasonable adjustments to my environment, equipment, activities, communication, and routines where necessary to enable children with SEND to participate fully in the experiences I provide.

I will use appropriate observations and knowledge of the child to identify areas where additional support may be needed. I will focus on what the child can do and their individual strengths, rather than making assumptions about what they cannot do.

Where appropriate, I will work with parents and relevant professionals, such as health visitors, speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, SEND support services or the local authority, to help meet the child's needs.

I will seek advice, specialist support and funding where appropriate and available, including early years SEND funding, to help provide the support or equipment a child may need.

I will keep parents informed about their child's progress and involve them in decisions about any additional support or adjustments.

Any information about a child's additional needs will be treated sensitively and stored securely in accordance with my Data Protection Policy. Information will only be shared with appropriate people when necessary to support the child or to meet safeguarding or legal requirements.

I will ensure that children with SEND are included in the daily life of my setting and have the same opportunities to play, learn, explore, and develop alongside other children.

If I am unable to safely meet a child's individual needs despite appropriate adjustments and support being explored, I will discuss this openly with the child's parents and, where appropriate, seek advice from relevant professionals and the local authority. The child's safety, wellbeing, and best interests will always be my priority.

I will regularly review this policy and keep my knowledge of SEND requirements and available local support up to date.