



BARNFIELDS EXTRA

BARNEY BEARS NURSERY

SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY

Barney Bears promotes inclusive practice because we believe that every child should have the best possible learning opportunities and support to achieve their full potential. We recognise that some children may have particular needs or disabilities and we take specific action to support and encourage these children within a caring environment where all children are valued and there are positive attitudes to difference. We enable all children to participate fully in all learning activities and experiences by focusing on each child's individual learning, development and care needs by:

'Being alert to the early signs of needs that could lead to later difficulties and responding quickly and appropriately' (Statutory Framework EYFS 2008)

We are committed to working closely with parents and other agencies, where necessary, monitoring the child's progress carefully and providing effective additional support to meet the child's needs.

The designated Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is Tracey Gilhooly.

Her role is to:

- Ensure that all children have the opportunity to join the nursery regardless of their disability or educational requirements.
- Ensure that all staff, including students and volunteers, are aware of the details of the policy and to ensure there are positive attitudes to differences.
- Identify the necessary provision and staff arrangements to meet the special needs of children.
- Set specific, achievable targets for children with special needs with the key worker, parents and children.
- Ensure that staff have opportunities to undertake specialist training related to special needs and inclusion to improve and update their knowledge and understanding.
- Make effective use of funding and resources to meet the identified needs of children in the nursery.
- Ensure that the work of Barney Bears Nursery has due regard to the SEN Code of Practice 2001.

Early identification and intervention

- We make daily observations and regularly monitor and review children's progress in all areas of development to enable early identification of children's special needs.
- We monitor the progress of children with identified special needs carefully so that we can plan appropriate provision and support for these children.
- Key workers work closely with parents to share all information on their child's progress.
- We use a graduated approach to identify and meet children's special needs. This is in line with national and local procedures and involves a systematic cycle of assessment, planning, action and review, recording clear targets and strategies for development and progress.

Inclusion

Children with special needs are fully integrated into the nursery and daily routines. In order to deliver appropriate and effective provisions or adaptations we collect information from parents from the outset to find out about the child's:

- Visual/hearing needs
- Physical needs
- Emotional needs
- Learning needs
- Self-help needs
- Communications needs

We ensure that children with special needs and disabilities, wherever possible, are involved in play activities alongside the other children. We support children so that they can play confidently, feel valued and make a positive contribution.

At Barney Bears we develop activities and experiences to raise the other children's awareness of positive images of disability and difference. We teach children to value and respect others and we lead by example. We plan open ended learning activities and experience to help all the children to participate and learn, although we may need to differentiate for some learning activities and experiences and provide alternative formats or additional equipment and resources for particular children. We use a range of strategies to engage the children in play and provide learning activities to suit children's most effective style of learning and level of ability.

Physical environment

We make reasonable adaptations and arrangements so that children with special needs and disabilities can join in all areas of Barney Bears Nursery, both indoors and outdoors. Every effort is made to organise appropriate space for the children's supported and independent movement. Staff will, where necessary, receive

appropriate training meet the needs of children where moving and handling is concerned. We will arrange respectful privacy for children with special needs at times of specific medical care or welfare.

Partnership with parents

The SENCO and key worker ensure that there is consistent communication and consultation with parents and encourage parents to work closely with staff to support their children's individual needs and encourage them to focus on their child's strengths and what they can do as well as focusing on their needs.

We check that parents understand the graduated procedures of intervention and consult with them about information that should be shared with others.

Multi-agency collaboration

The SENCO has support from the District Support Services and liaises, where necessary, with other supportive agencies i.e. Health Visitors, Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, etc.

We gather information on relevant contacts and services to share with parents and aim to achieve a good relationship for information sharing, collaboration and understanding with other professionals in order to take into account the complete needs of the child. We work with the school SENCO to aid transition into reception.