



Welton Free Rangers
Local Offer
September 2014



**Special Educational
Needs & Disability**

Free Rangers Local Offer 2014

SENCO details

Jessica Kendrick has been SENCO at Free Rangers since the nursery opened in August 2011. Jessica can be contacted by email on jessicafreerangers@gmail.com or by telephone on 01761 411328

What is your name, Business name, and Ofsted number?

The manager at Free Rangers is Gemma Macey and our business name is Free Rangers Forest School Ltd, our Ofsted number is EY441642.

Please provide a short paragraph about your ethos/mission statement for including children and young people with Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND). How do you aim to meet the unique needs of the child?

At Free Rangers we recognise our individual responsibility to ensure that our environment is one of kindness, enthusiasm and empathy and we are committed to ensuring each child's happiness and wellbeing is nurtured on a daily basis.

We believe:

- All children have a right to be happy
- Learning is fun
- The process of learning far outweighs the product
- Learning needs to be relevant and meaningful
- Nature and being outdoors enhances learning
- Children learn through doing
- Children learn by engaging their senses
- Children need time to learn
- Nourishing food ensures better learning

As a result of our mission statement we strive to meet the needs of all children through building positive relationships with the children and their families. At Free Rangers we encourage children to achieve their own goals and milestones by providing activities, care and an environment suited to their needs and level of development. Our Forest school; Outdoor learning ethos provides children with the opportunities to take safe risks, build their confidence and self-esteem which in turn produces children who have a genuine love of learning and who feel proud and able to celebrate their individual achievements, however, big or small. There may be some children that Free Rangers is not suitable for, however we will always work with local agencies, parents and professionals to ensure where possible we can fully include all children.

How do you identify that a child is not meeting appropriate age related milestones and what do you do in this case?

At Free Rangers we have invested heavily in our ability to move all children's learning diaries to an online programme. Thanks to a newly formed relationship with Create Development, we have co-written The EYFS Wheel, a tool to enable us to better meet your child's individual learning needs. With our online tool we are able to see how each child is achieving

developmentally and compare individual children's wheels to the group average. Parents are able to contribute to their child's EYFS Wheel ensuring we have a true, collaborated picture of all children's development. We also carry out quarterly cohort overviews to ensure children are meeting the relevant learning and developmental expectations for their age.

Should concerns arise over a child's progress we arrange meetings with the parents and with their consent work with the local authority, which involves liaising with outside professionals to seek the recommended support for the child. We produce in house Individual Education Plans (IEP'S) as well as Inclusion Plans to ensure we are able to follow recommendations from the professionals involved with the child and monitor progress to be able to fully evaluate and discuss the progressions made by the child.

Where appropriate we are able to host Team around the Child Meetings (TAC) and Progress Reviews to ensure everyone works together collaboratively for the best of the child and keeps up to date with progress, needs and support in place

How do you promote positive relationships and ensure good, ongoing communication with families? How will families know what progress their children are making and what can they do at home to support this?

At Free Rangers we work on building a positive relationship with our families from day one. We have a good settling in process in place that ensures we get to spend quality time with the parents and children, finding out as much as we can, before they join us at Free Rangers. Parents fill in comprehensive paperwork detailing their child's medical and dietary needs as well as passwords, emergency contacts and more. Each child has their own key person who is the parents first point of contact alongside management, it is the key person's responsibility to update the child's EYFS wheel and communicate successes and concerns with parents at drop off and collection. In addition to the EYFS Wheel parents also receive weekly emails and the nursery staff provide online blogs detailing specific activities or events that have been of interest in the individual rooms.

As mentioned parents are able to contribute towards their child's EYFS wheel by uploading their own photos or detailing events or achievements from home. We also hold parents evenings where parents have a chance to discuss their child's time at nursery in more depth and ensure we are all working together for the best of the child. Free Rangers also operates an open door policy and will provide the opportunity to meet with parents/carers when necessary.

How do you provide an enabling environment for all the children in your care?

Free Rangers is set within Welton Manor farm, therefore we are surrounded by countryside and have access to a local greenway and our own paddocks in addition to the nursery building, garden and grounds. Our settling therefore provides the children with an array of wildlife and farm animals. Staff plan to the children's interests and set up activities based on observations, discussions and learning needs identified by the EYFS wheel (these could be for an individual or groups).

Staff are excellent at providing resources which enable children to explore, take risks with benefits and challenge their own learning. Our highly qualified staff are also there to scaffold

the children's learning and make resources readily available to further children's learning and play opportunities. Staff are able to offer appropriate support to the children in their care and differentiate as and when is needed, when we feel it necessary we have appointed 1:1 support staff to work with individuals to enable them to enjoy their time at Free Rangers.

How do you support children to experience a smooth transition to nursery and school?

Once a child has enrolled at Free Rangers we offer settling sessions that consist of a one hour session with the parent/carer and a two hour session that is time spent at nursery alone. During the one hour session key staff members will talk with the parent/carer to get to know the child as best they can, this enables the staff members to know the child's likes/dislikes and comforts, should they become upset. During this time the parents also complete the paperwork mentioned detailing any needs, passwords, contacts and so on. During the two hour session the key staff member will spend time with the child to initiate the building of what will become a special positive relationship. For children who have any additional needs an additional meeting is held with the SENCO to ensure appropriate support is in place for when the child starts at Free Rangers and that staff are made aware of any needs or areas of support.

Transitions to school are handled on three levels, the universal level (which is all children). Transition for this group includes stories, role play, visits from the teachers and open days to discuss the move to school. The next level is the Targeted level, for this group we may talk in more depth with teachers, hold meetings with parents and involve children in the 'Get Set for School' project, where it is available. Finally there is the Higher needs level and for these children we do all of the above as well as putting in place a clear transition plan. In some cases we are able to secure funding to enable support to be given during the final terms at nursery and the first terms at school. At Free Rangers we are passionate about ensuring we have the correct level of transitional support in place to ensure our happy children continue to be happy once they have left us.

What qualities, skills and experience do you (and your staff) have to support a child's unique needs?

The SENCO at Free Rangers has worked in child care for seven years and has been SENCO for three years. All of the staff at Free Rangers are highly qualified, many to degree and qualified teacher level. Staff have had experience of working with a range of outside agencies including speech and language, occupational therapists, paediatricians, behaviour support, social care and educational psychologists and therefore have a range of strategies already in place from advice they have received and through successes with other children. All staff at Free Rangers plan for the needs of individual children and will enhance resources and draw upon other's knowledge and experience where necessary, at Free Rangers we excel as a team.

Is there anything else you would like to add to your local offer?

Free Rangers thrives to support all children within our care and ensures parental involvement is paramount in helping us to provide the very best learning opportunities for their children.