

Local Offer: Early Years Settings



Special Educational
Needs & Disability

1. Business name and Ofsted number: Next Steps Nursery EY386010
2. Who is your named Special Educational Needs and Disability contact? Tash Cann
3. 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? As experienced early years practitioners we are completely committed to providing high standards of nursery provision. We feel the first five years of a child's life is when they will probably learn more than at any other time, so our aim is to explore and support their inquisitive, enquiring minds and to nurture happy, confident children who are interested in all they see, hear and do. Next Steps Nursery is committed to valuing diversity, by providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families. We aim to treat all children equally, respecting their individuality and supporting them in reaching their full potential. We recognise and aim to meet the diverse needs of all children and to reflect the multi-cultural nature of our society, by ensuring displays and activities reflect a variety of positive images which are free from stereotyping associated with gender, race or physical disability and to value each child's contributions.
4. How do you identify that a child is not meeting appropriate age related milestones and what do you do in this case? How do you find out what matters to the child and their family? We use a graduated response, children who are showing a delay in more than one area are monitored closely, and we talk to parents about how we can work together to support the child's needs. If necessary additional support or an IEP will be put in place. Advice is sought from relevant professionals with parent permission if the child is making little progression. Constant communication with the parents throughout the processes ensures good relationships with the child and the family is maintained. It is important that child's needs are addressed both at home and in the setting; this ensures consistency for the child.
5. How do you promote positive relationships and ensure good, ongoing communication with families? How will families know what progress their children are making, how to access additional support and what they can do at home to help? At Next Steps Nursery we want children to feel safe, stimulated and happy, in both the setting and with the staff. We also want parents/carers to have confidence in both their children's well being and their roles as active partners with the nursery. We allocate a key person to each child and his/her family before he/she starts to attend. The key person/worker will look after the child and his/her parents at the child's first session, during the settling in process and throughout their time spent at Next Steps. Children settle best when they have a key person to relate to, who knows them and their parents well, and who

<p>can meet their individual needs. A key person is responsible for developmental records and for sharing information on a regular basis with the child's parents to keep those records up-to-date, reflecting the full picture of the child in the nursery and at home. Parents are given advice on additional support groups in the community, we also inform parents of strategies that they might use at home to ensure consistency. We have sign posted websites/books which might be useful to them which we have previously used with other parents.</p>
<p>6. How will you communicate with other providers who care for a child, or with providers who will be caring for the child? How do you support children to experience a smooth transition to school or a different situation?</p>
<p>Initial conversations take place before a child starts at Next Steps, information is gained from parents and followed by a friendly phone call, we arrange settling in visits at this time and try to ensure that settling in is as smooth as possible. Whilst the child is beginning to settle we monitor and feed back to parents, adjustments or extra support and reassurance is given if necessary. Communication takes place between Next Steps practitioners and other settings who care for children also attending Next Steps. This is carried out by initial telephone conversations between key workers and other providers. A communication/link book is set up which allows all necessary parties, including parents to pass on relevant information. If there are any other significant changes in a child's life, for example, a new home or baby, these are introduced into the planning so that situations are addressed as a 'whole'. When a child is moving on to school, children are prepared by regular discussion and visits to the new setting. Children who need extra support may be considered for the 'Get set for school project', a picture book of photo's of the new environment and extra visits to meet with new practitioners help to ease the transition.</p>
<p>7. How do you provide an enabling environment for all the children in your care? Are there quiet areas and fully accessible spaces? What other adjustments can you make? What about the physical environment in and outside your setting?</p>
<p>Next Steps Nursery is situated in the grounds of St John's C of E Primary School. The purpose built nursery building is light and airy, with views of the school field and backs on to a small attractive woodland area. The nursery has its own secure outside play area that the children will access daily. There are three rooms with exciting activities for children to choose from, we operate a free flow environment and there is opportunity for all children to access both indoor and outdoor play and a large range of appropriate toys and equipment. There are two ramps into the building at the front and rear of the building. We also have wide hallways and doorways to enable wheel chair user's ease of access. There are booster steps in the toilet area and a hand rail. We use visual aids to support children. There are quiet spots both inside and out for children to rest and low level resources which are accessible to all. If there was a child or family member who needed us to make adjustments we would make changes as and when necessary and engage outside support if it was felt appropriate.</p>
<p>8. What qualities, skills and experience do you (and your staff) have to support a child's unique needs?</p>
<p>Staff at Next Steps Nursery have many years of experience in this profession, each have individual qualities and backgrounds which contribute towards providing an inclusive and diverse approach. It is through their commitment and dedication that the children gain so much more than just nursery academia. We therefore are committed to providing good training and development opportunities for the staff so that they are able to perform their roles efficiently and effectively and keep up to date with current educational developments for nursery children. We recognise that regular training and monitoring of professional development is important for all staff. Staff development and training is vital because it</p>

allows staff to keep up to date with current thinking and practice about both play and child development issues.

This is an opportunity to signpost parents to services that can support them, for example the Parent Partnership Service