

Moor Lane Day Nursery

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

We aim to work together with parents and professionals to provide a stimulating, happy and safe environment where all individuals can develop and learn according to their ability, culture and background.

Our special needs policy takes account of the Education Act 1996, the Special Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014, the Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015 and the aims of the nursery.

Moor Lane Day Nursery's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) is Penny Daykin who attends all relevant SEN training. Penny will work with other members of staff, parents and outside agencies to identify any individuals with SEN and then provide access to support materials for all seven areas of Early Year's Foundation Stage of development and learning and keep records on the individual to ensure they are extended according to their capabilities. (See admissions policy)

Children have a learning difficulty if they:

- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age
- have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the local authority area
- are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them

We follow the fundamental principles of the SEN code of practice and these are as follows.

- A child with SEN should have their needs met
- The SEN children will normally be met in mainstream schools or early education settings
- The view of the child, if possible, should be sought and taken into account
- Parents have a vital role in supporting the child
- Children with SEN should be offered full access to a broad based, balanced and relevant education, including an appropriate curriculum for the EYFS
- Being aware of and alert to emerging difficulties
- The outcome of the action taken

Requests for an education, health and care needs assessment

For a very few children, the help given by the nursery and additional support will not be sufficiently effective to enable the child to progress satisfactorily. It will then be necessary for the nursery, in consultation with the parents and any external agencies already involved, to consider whether a statutory multi-disciplinary assessment may be appropriate. Where a request for an education, health and care needs assessment is made to Achieving for Children (AfC), the child will have demonstrated significant cause for concern and the setting will have evidence gathered throughout the process.

Annual review

As a result of an education, health and care needs assessment, the AfC will decide whether a child needs provision through an education, health, and care plan (EHCP), the nursery where the provision is to be made and how the needs will be met. This may be through additional support or equipment and may have a cost implication. All EHCPs are reviewed at least once a year and everyone involved is invited to consider whether any amendments need to be made.

We are aware of the Local Offer and will signpost the information about provision that parents can expect across education, health and social care for children and young people in the area with SEN or disabilities, children who do not have EHCPs.

At Moor Lane Day Nursery, the SENCO attends special training sessions (termly SENCO networks) and other members of staff have and will attend various training that we feel will benefit individuals with SEN. There are external agencies in the borough from which we are able to borrow SEN equipment and get professional advice. The building has large, spacious rooms and ramps through to wide doors, allowing wheelchair access.

We provide a variety of equipment to promote early years learning in all areas of the curriculum and aim to ensure that staff are able to work with individual children or small groups as appropriate.

When identifying, assessing and reviewing a child with SEN, we follow the SEN Code of Practice and will devise interventions such as a targeted plan which may be different, or additional, to the usual curriculum offered.

When planning our curriculum, we will make sure that in our medium and short term plans, our SEN policy is addressed and any plans can be adapted to individual needs if necessary. All plans assess, monitor and record an individual's progress.

We will ensure that our learning environment provides as many opportunities as possible, inside and outside of the setting, to all individuals and that we are able to adapt any areas of the setting to ensure that children with SEN can be included.

Our SEN policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis, monitored, and evaluated with all the staff at staff meetings.

Any complaints about our SEN provision can be aired through either Carol Price or Moor Lane Day Nursery's SENCO, Penny Daykin. Any comments will be recorded in the appropriate file and action will be taken when necessary. If this is not satisfactory, complaints can then be taken to Ofsted (See Complaints Policy).

Staff training in relation to SEN is met through courses run by Achieving for Children. The nursery also provides access to relevant books and articles on special needs, such as the inclusive development programme, speech, language and communication, autism spectrum.

We feel it is very important to have a close partnership with parents and carers of children with SEN and will work closely with them and have regular meetings to ensure that any problems that occur can be resolved and addressed as soon as possible. We will also keep detailed records on the individual's progress whilst they are in our care.

When SEN children move to another setting, all records will be forwarded on to the relevant staff. If a child with SEN attends another early year's setting whilst attending our nursery, we will work closely with their staff.

The nursery will have close contact with relevant outside agencies that are able to give us advice and support for individuals with SEN.

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