

11: PLAY STATION NURSERY: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY

Every Child Matters: Change for Children agenda reinforces the need to focus on outcomes for all children. All children have the right to equality, alongside the opportunity to play a full part in community life; and we know this must start from the earliest age.

The educational play experiences provided at Play Station will be designed and implemented to take into account the wide diversity of children's individual characteristics and needs.

The feeling of belonging contributes to inner well-being, security, and identity. Children need to know that they are accepted for what they are.

If a member of staff should become concerned that a particular child has learning difficulties or is worried about a child's development in any way the setting SENCo (Katy Gill) will be informed, and focused observations will commence in order to assess and track any concerns. This is discussed with parents immediately; they are invited in to talk through any initial concerns we or they may have.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Further to the agreement of the parents and if deemed necessary our Early Years Intervention officer (EIO) will be informed of our concerns and be asked to make their own assessments through our documented observations and their own findings following observations.

If necessary, a child will be given a SEN plan so that their development may be tracked and appropriately supported. Play Station Nursery staff are committed to working with other professionals and families in the best interests of the child, gladly taking the advice and support of outside agencies.

All children will be welcomed at Play Station Nursery and their individual needs met through carefully planned and executed activities that will stimulate and challenge them whatever their capabilities. Activities will be based on the children's interests.

Please note our Observations, assessment, and planning procedures.

Please note our Equal opportunities policy.

When children from the setting leave, all necessary and relevant information/observations will be handed to the setting/professionals taking over the care of the child. Meetings between carers are often arranged to assist the transition period.

At Play Station we will strive to ensure that:

- Everyone is made to feel welcome.
- Staff work well together and with parents and carers.
- A philosophy of inclusion is established and shared.
- Discrimination and Bullying are erased from the community.
- Children's achievements are noted and celebrated.
- Children are actively involved in their learning.
- Consistent and full reviews of practice are facilitated.

Due to the level of one-to-one adult support that some children require; without any additional funding, it is to be expected that there may be a limit to the amount of support that we can offer to children with SEND or additional needs. As children with additional needs may require 1-1 support. We ask all parents who are looking to join the setting to disclose any knowledge they have of their child's needs. We are a small setting and in order to offer high levels of care to all of our children, we are only able to care for a number of SEN children. Parents will be asked before accepting a place to advise of any additional needs their child may have. If it is later found that parents knowingly withheld this information; we reserve the right to cancel the place.

We endeavour to offer a provision that welcomes all children of all needs, though staffing and ratios will inevitably decide how much 'additional' support we can essentially give.

Should a child requiring extra support wish to join our setting, a judgment will be made on the current level of needs/support required from the other children already accessing the setting.

This judgment will be well informed, non-discriminative and take into consideration the best outcomes for potential new starters, and all the individual children accessing the setting.

Alongside this, an assessment of the new child's needs will be made, and discussions will be had with the parents around whether we will be able to successfully meet these needs of the child.

Should parents still wish to enroll their child, they will be fully informed about the level of additional SEN support that their child will then receive.

In some cases, it may be deemed necessary and in the best interest of the child to reduce the hours if a child has high level needs. This will be discussed with the parents and any other professionals who may be already involved with the child or family. All other avenues of support should be exhausted before hours are reduced.