

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES COMMITMENT

“How our setting knows if young children need extra help and what our parents/carers should do if they think their child may have SEND?”

SEND stands for: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We are open to hearing any concerns or receive any information available from parent/carers on registering your child with the Sunnymede pre-school to ensure that we can accommodate the child and help the child reach their full potential when they join us. This will ensure that we are the best fit for your child.

On joining Sunnymede Pre-school all children are allocated a key person who meets with the parent/carers to discuss their current level of attainment based on the Development Matters, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. However we use ongoing observations of the children during each session, assessing their development and learning to determine their needs are met. Each term we also measure all the children’s achievements against Development Matters to ensure they are moving forward. These activities also highlight whether there are any SEND concerns.

We work closely with parent/carers and with consent with partner organisations to support assessment of children with SEND and to create ongoing support strategies.

If you have any concerns you should talk to our Manager when joining the pre-school – and your child’s key person during the parent carer contact meeting where we undertake a starting point/baseline assessment.

How our setting supports young children with SEND?

We provide an environment in which children with SEND are supported to reach their full potential. Through continual observations we can plan for your child’s individual needs, including assessing whether additional support from other professionals is needed. We will take extra steps to put strategies in place that will support the child and extend this to their home environment where needed. Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENCo) will support to ensure the best strategies are in place to support your child.

How our setting creates learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND

Every child is unique; hence we provide a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum. Our SENCo works closely with our staff and has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of our SEND Policy and for co-ordinating provision for children with SEND. We use the graduated response system for identifying, assessing and responding to these children, based on their needs. We use the one planning approach which is an action plan unique to each child which aims to develop clear objectives for the child to be working towards; these are drawn up and regularly reviewed in consultation with all who are involved with the child.

The One Plan is used as a basis to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and review the children with SEND. We build into the planning play and behavioural strategies based on feedback we have on the children to ensure the sessions meet their needs and enjoyment

We use resources to support the child to adapt and join in at the pre-school, which also creates learning and development opportunities. Resources could include: Now and Then Books, pictorial choosing boards, exploratory boxes with themed toys for the children to find and discuss, speaking boxes for voice recording, basic Makaton and introduction to Braille, sensory toys plus others.

How our setting works in partnership with parents/carers

A strong relationship between Sunnymede Pre-school and our parents is important to us. We work closely with all parents of children including those with SEND to create and maintain a positive partnership.

Throughout a child's time at the pre-school we support parent/carer engagement with access to our staff at the beginning and end of each session. We also track the children's development, use termly feedback forms completed by parents, create annual reports on progress, hold annual Open Days for parents to discuss their child with staff, as well as telephone access to the Manager. Parent/carers also have access to their child's Learning Journal and can add to it at any time. We will also provide homework for the children to take home and share with parents whilst in our Bee room. Our SENCo will also meet with you to discuss and implement any strategies or plans put in place.

How our setting supports the wellbeing of young children with SEND

We offer settling in sessions, which will familiarise children with the setting. We also hold a Toddlers Club on a Tuesday afternoon during term time, for parent/carers to attend with their child/ren allowing more interaction with the setting. At the meeting between the key person and the parent/carer during the first few weeks of settling in, we can discuss any support needed, such as toileting requirements, allergies and medicines etc.

We provide healthy snacks during the sessions, plenty of exercise – indoor free flow play and an inviting garden area. We have a safe and secure and accessible building, with a security procedure for the collection of children. We undertake a risk assessment on the building every day before the children arrive as well assessing the toys for safety and damage.

We have a positive approach to supporting behaviour. We will always discuss any behavioural concerns with you in order to maintain a consistent approach between home and the setting.

Staff training and experience in supporting young children with SEND

Our staff have a wealth of experience of working with children with disabilities and special needs. We have cared for children with down-syndrome, type one diabetes, blood disorders, behavioural and speech development delay, autistic spectrum disorders and muscular dystrophy in the past.

We are trained in paediatric first aid and safeguarding procedures. We work with the Essex Area SENCo and other professionals to ask advice and guidance on SEND issues. All staff are regularly kept updated on SEND policy and are sent on regular training as and when needs are identified. We continually reflect on our practice and all training is refreshed regularly.

Specialist services and expertise accessed by our setting

Sunnymede Pre-school has access to advice and guidance from our Essex Area SENCo, Health Visitors, Speech and Language Therapists, behavioural support, Children Centres and Specialist Teachers.

How our setting includes young children with SEND in community based activities and outings

All children are included on our trips to our Norsey Woods Teddy Bears Picnic and our Annual Coach trip. The children's needs are identified and planned for. Risk assessments are completed for all trips. A mobile phone and a first aid kit are always taken with us.

Our accessible environment

Sunnymede Pre-school is situated within Sunnymede Infant's school building and is at ground level, there is a small temporary ramp available to support wheelchair access to the building. We will work closely with parents to access any specialist equipment that is required. We have child height toilets and washbasins and have access to an adult disabled toilet as required. We will make reasonable adjustments to our settings layouts if needed.

How our setting prepares and supports young children with SEND when joining the setting and when transferring to another setting or school

We encourage parent/carers and children to attend our Toddler Club to become acquainted with the environment as well as visiting during a session. We work closely with each family to develop a settling routine to support your child.

When joining another setting we endeavour to share the children's development records with that setting or school. We work closely with Sunnymede Infants School as well other schools in the area supporting transitions. We hold uniform for each school plus a photo album to encourage the children to discuss and learn and experience for themselves the idea of involvement with the school they will attend. We also have visits from the schools teachers and the children are invited to visit Sunnymede Infant School in addition to planned transition programmes. Any extra requirements are discussed and planned for.

How our setting organises its resources to meet the needs of young children with SEND

We hold resources within the setting premises and are able to borrow additional resources from the Area SENCo if required. We are able to apply for funding from Essex County Council to support individual children as required. We have limited funds however we fund raise once a year to buy resources that will enhance the development and enjoyment of all of our children.

How we decide on appropriate support for young children with SEND

We ensure the effectiveness of our SEND provision by collecting information from a range of sources e.g. Individual Education Plan reviews, staff and management meetings, parental and external agency's views, and inspections. This information is collated, evaluated and reviewed regularly. The Manager and SENCo will work closely with you and other professionals to determine your child's needs.

How we involve all parents/carers in our setting

Our pre-school involves parents/carers in a number of ways. We offer an Open door policy for parents/carers to come in and play with your children. We hold an annual Open Evening. We hold singing performances for the parents to attend. We regularly share information between the key person and parents/carers. Our termly newsletters highlight all key events and themes for the term which supports extensions of communication in the home regarding what we are doing during the week. We offer homework to be taken home whilst the child is in our Bee room. We have a book sharing scheme that all children and their families take part in. We assess children's needs and make recommendations where necessary. We can offer daily diaries where there is a perceived need and sharing of Learning Journals and daily updates where necessary. We also offer daily communication at collection and drop off time.

Who to contact for further information

Sunnymede Pre-school
Kate Greenwood, Manager
Office Phone Number: 01277 654879