

Little Stars of White Hall Academy Nursery

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)

Local Offer

Vision Statement:

Our nursery believes that all pupils should be able to make the best possible progress within their developmental stages and we are committed to ensuring that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has SEND. We support pupils with SEND to be included in all aspects of our nursery life.

Q. How do the staff at Little Stars Nursery know if children who attend there are in need of extra help and what should parents do if they think their child may have SEND?

Little Stars prides itself on its warm and welcoming atmosphere and the relationships that practitioners build with the children and their families.

From the first day that children join Little Stars they are given a designated key person, who will work closely with parents/carers to ensure the child is given the best possible care and support for their development.

The staff at our setting understand that the early identification of any additional need that a child may have is vital in order to give them the correct and effective support that they may need.

Continuous observational assessments are carried out by the child's key person in accordance with the EYFS curriculum. This is then linked to the development matters age and stage of development to assess and identify a child's individual needs.

Little Stars has a trained Special Education Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO) Mrs Tracy Baker, who will work closely with all staff to provide advice and support on a regular basis.

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With parental consent our SENCO will liaise with outside professionals, gathering reports and arranging visits for the child if necessary. Our SENCO also works in conjunction with the Area SENCO, sharing information and seeking support and advice when needed. Mrs Baker has up to date Code of Practice training and often attends any other courses related to SEND. The knowledge gained at these courses will then be cascaded by way of in-house training to the practitioners in the setting by the SENCO and/or Nursery Manager.

Mrs Baker continues to support the children through the Whitehall Academy Early Years provision until the summer term of Year 1, this allows for continuous support for the children who have SEND. She works closely with the two SENCOs within the Academy to ensure smooth transitions and that the parent partnership will continue with how the child is supported.

Mrs Baker is also the Nursery ENCO (Equal Opportunities Co-ordinator) and ensures that the setting meets the need of all parents/carers and children including those whose first language is not English. Mrs Baker is also our EAL Co-ordinator and ensures that children who have English as an Additional Language are supported with their early learning and development.

Q. What kind of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are provided for and how does Little Stars Nursery support young children with SEND?

A child has SEND where there learning difficulty or disability calls for special education provision, that is provision **different from or additional to** that normally available to children of the same age. There are four broad areas of special education needs and provision which are:

-  Communication and interaction
-  Cognition and learning
-  Social, mental and emotional health
-  Sensory and/or physical

As part of the induction to our Nursery we offer taster sessions to ensure that the transition from home to nursery is as smooth and stress free as possible. The taster session is offered so that both parent/carer and child can spend time together at the setting playing and getting to know the staff. During the taster session you will be introduced to your child's key person who will gather important information regarding your child using our "All About Me" information pack.

Mrs Baker our Early Years SENCO works closely with the Key Staff to ensure that new children's information is shared and if parents have any concerns or SEND information in relation to their child already, it can be given to our SENCO to enable her to support the child and the family as soon as they start at the Nursery.

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Our SENCO meets with the staff on a regular basis to share information and support both the Key Person and family. She is also available to speak to families or arrange meetings to be able to discuss the children further.

As a parent/carer you will be involved in planning and reviewing your child's SEN Personal Support Plan (this includes a detailed account of their area they are being supported in, what the intervention or support will be and who will be supporting your child), along with your child's key person. All Children with SEND have a one page profile detailing their likes, dislikes, behavioural needs and how they need support. These are available for all staff within the setting working closely with them.

These are reviewed on a half termly basis and are available for all staff to access within the Nursery. Our SENCO will also be available for these reviews to discuss the provision for your child. We also liaise with all outside professionals and invite them into the setting as and when needed.

Q. How will children with Special Educational Needs be identified and what sorts of assessments will be completed?

Your child's key person will collate information to help plan and support your individual child's needs. We complete:

- ✚ "All About Me" booklet.
- ✚ Home visits.
- ✚ Baseline tests – using developmental descriptors.
- ✚ Two year old checks.
- ✚ A range of observations.
- ✚ Tracking grids (tracking progress across all seven areas of development).

Little Stars prides itself on parent partnership and parents are encouraged to communicate freely with staff. Additionally, informal meetings can be arranged with your child's key person for a more in depth discussion. Your child's key person will also initiate meetings to discuss assessment strategies such as tracking grids and the two year old check. If there are any concerns that you may wish to share at these meetings with Mrs Baker she will be happy to attend.

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Q. How do Little Stars create learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND?

At Little Stars Nursery we create a fun, safe and inclusive environment for every child's individual learning and development.

For the children who have been identified with SEND, we take targets and strategies from the child's Personal Support Plan and add them to our weekly planning. The planning is in place to ensure a range of activities, experiences and opportunities both indoors and out allowing each child's needs to be met.

The planning will show a SEND child's initials by the side of the activity and how this is linked with their individual targets. We also plan for adult led activities which can be 1-1, small group or whole group. Planning for the children's next steps is taken from previous observations and assessments which are then worked on throughout their sessions and recorded through various forms of media e.g. Tapestry Learning Journal, on-going records of outcomes attached to the Personal Support Plan.

When your child joins Little Stars Nursery, his or her key person will create a profile on our on-line Learning Journal (Tapestry) which collates observations, photos, videos and craft they have created. These Learning Journals stay with the child throughout their time at the nursery and are available for viewing at all times at home once you have been set up by the Key Person on the Tapestry system. We actively encourage parents/carers to look at their child's Learning Journal home and add any photos or information they wish from home. This will allow for these to be shared within the Nursery as well.

All staff are trained to listen to the children's needs and put their interests and emotions first and foremost. Confidentiality is paramount and any discussion with your key person, SENCO's or management team regarding your child's development would be carried out in a private and secure place.

At the setting we offer a Sensory Room which is available for the Key Person to use with your child during the day. If your child requires specialist equipment, our SENCO will liaise with you and the relevant external agency to ensure that this is available to the setting. In addition, any resources which we feel the child will benefit from and help support their learning and development are gathered from outside professionals by the key persons or our SENCO if needed.

The Staff at Little Stars attend regular training for the four key areas of SEND and have qualifications in the following:

-  Elklan
-  Makaton
-  Autism Awareness

Q. How do Little Stars work in partnership with parents/carers?

Little Stars Nursery values its parent partnership and feels it vital to establish a trusting and supportive relationship with the families of the children we support in their development and introduction to learning.

Daily interactions create the foundation of the home/setting relationship with practitioners sharing information and regular updates on children's learning and development progress.

As part of our parent partnership we offer training on-site for various Adult Learning courses and information and leaflets regarding courses for parents/carers to attend are available from the nursery.

Nursery practitioners and our SENCO are available to be contacted via telephone or email during the day and parents/carers are welcome and encouraged to telephone/email us if necessary.

Q. How is the wellbeing of young children with SEND supported?

Here at Little Stars Nursery general risk assessments and health care plans are completed and in place to ensure children's safety whilst at nursery. If we feel a specific child with SEND is at an additional risk we will complete individual risk assessments and health care plans to ensure their safety and overall well-being.

There is a locked medicine cabinet which is positioned out of children's reach in the Admin Office to provide a safe area for storage as well as first aid kits within the room which are always fully stocked and available at all times.

We have a designated nappy changing area; this is cleaned throughout the sessions and have safe high units to change the children on. When changing a nappy we use aprons, gloves and nappy sacks, all of which are disposed of in a secure bin daily. We also have child sized toilets within the setting, which are also cleaned on a regular basis.

Although we fully encourage independence children will be monitored at all times when using the toilets. If your child is in older end of the Nursery but requires the use of the nappy changing area, they will be taken by their key person to the nappy changing facility to be changed privately and safely.

We have two members of staff who are trained and experienced in behaviour management Alison Cole and Tracy Baker and both are available for any advice or training if needed. At the Little Stars we pride ourselves on encouraging positive behaviour in a very supportive manner. We use lots of positive language and reward systems such as sticker charts, star of the day certificates, potty and toilet charts etc. We also have a range of story books which reflect positive behaviour in a fun and interactive way.

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We have two designated Safeguarding Officers within the Nursery – Alison Cole and Tracy Baker. We also ensure that all staff have completed safeguarding training in line with the Academy staff. All of the practitioners within the setting are fully aware of the safeguarding procedures in place and are aware of whom to report any concerns or disclosures to.

Our SENCO and key persons have close contact with outside specialists and professionals involved in a child's life and they are invited to visit the children within the nursery in order work closely with our team to best meet the child's individual needs.

We have a range of specialists available including; Area SENCO, Health Visitors, Speech and Language Therapists, Health care Service Team, Pres-School Team and Family Support Key Workers.

Q. Is Little Stars a fully accessible environment?

Both entrances to our setting are fully wheel chair accessible and there are wide opening doorways within the nursery.

Q. How will my child be supported with transition going forward?

As explained earlier, Mrs Baker is responsible for monitoring the progress and additional support for all of the SEND children within Early Years and it is her role to ensure that all information concerning an individual child with SEND is passed to the new key person and/or teacher. Once the child is in Year 1 within the Academy, she will transfer the responsibility of their support to Mrs Louise Warland. However, should the child be transferring to another Early Years setting, she will liaise with the SENCO there in the same way.

Any children regarding an EHC (Educational Health Care Plan) before they start school would be completed by the family support key worker, parents and settings key person.

We hope that you have found this information regarding how we support children with SEND in our Nursery helpful but should you wish to discuss this in further detail, you contact Alison Cole (Nursery Manager) or Tracy Baker (Early Years SENCO) on 01255 422825.