



Local Offer for Children with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities

All children are entitled to an education that enables them to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes and become confident young children with a growing ability to communicate their own views, and who are ready to make the transition into compulsory education. (DfE, p9, 2014)

Our vision at Woodpeckers Preschool is to provide a safe, nurturing and caring learning environment in which all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities are supported to reach their full potential.

What is SEND?

The definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is a child who

- Has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- Has a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities generally provided for others of the same age'.

(Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0:25, 2015)

And/or has

- a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

(Equality Act 2010)

What is the 'Local Offer'?

The Children's and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, transport, health and social care for children and young people aged 0-25 years in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have EHC plans. The purpose of this 'Local Offer' is to enable parents, carers, and young people to see more clearly what services are available and how to access them. The process extends to early years settings and the information below forms our settings 'Local Offer' and shows how we provide for children with SEND.

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator takes responsibility for delivering our settings 'Local Offer' and supporting staff in their roles as key person to meet children's needs with SEND. The SENCO ensures any relevant issues are discussed regularly at staff meetings in order to maintain staff awareness where appropriate.

Our SENCO has completed specific SENCO training courses, Makaton training and regularly attends Networking meetings and forums.

The SEND Co-ordinator is Sarah Bartholomew (SENCO).

How does Woodpeckers Preschool know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special education needs and/or disabilities?

- At Woodpeckers Preschool every child is treated as a unique individual and each child has a key person. The key person's role is to develop a trusting, sensitive relationship with parents and children to enable respectful sharing of information.
- Before your child joins Woodpeckers, you will be offered a visit . This offers us the opportunity to talk to you about your child's development to date and plan a smooth transition for them into our Preschool.
- If your child already has an identified special educational need and/or disability and/or an Educational Healthcare Plan, you will be encouraged to share reports and contact details of other healthcare professionals with us so we can work in partnership with these agencies to support your child in our setting.
- Once your child has settled at Preschool, observations and formative assessments will take place to ensure that he/she is making expected progress for their age and stage of development
- These observations will be tracked against the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework 2025 using the Birth to 5 years guidance. This information helps us to produce summative assessments which shows progress in the prime areas, between 24 and 36 months and prime and specific areas between 36 and 60 months. If your child shows a delay in development in the prime areas, a main focus will stay in these areas until they are securely working in these areas.
- If your child is under 36 months when they join Woodpeckers, a progress check at 2 years will be completed with you as soon as possible.
- If we have concerns about your child's progress then the Key person and/or possibly the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) will raise this with you.
- If you have any concerns about your child's development, you can discuss these with your key person at any time or alternatively, you can discuss your concerns in private with the SENCO if you wish.

How will I be informed/consulted about the ways in which my child is being supported?

- Your key person will be keen to talk to you when you drop off and pick up your child at Woodpeckers. These informal conversations between yourself and key person offer a lovely opportunity for parents/carers and key person's to discuss children's progress and current interests as well as offer advice on how to promote and support your child's learning and development at home. It also offers the opportunity to ensure that we are both working together, making sure we are sharing routines and strategies so children receive consistency both at home and in the setting.

- When your child starts at Woodpeckers, we will set up a Family Online Learning Journal for your child. This will include photographs and videos and a written assessment about Learning and Development and how your child is being supported in the setting as well as ways you can support them at home.
- If your child appears to be behind expected levels, or where your child's progress gives cause for concern, your key person and/or SENCO will discuss these with you.
- Your key person and/or SENCO will share with you what strategies they have already put in place to support your child and talk to you about the impact of this on their progress.
- These initial discussions form part of the 'graduated approach system' we use for identifying, assessing and responding to children with SEND. This means using a step by step response through the various levels of intervention which are:

Discussion of concern;
Targeted support – Individual Learning Plans
Educational Health and Care Plan (EHC)

- This is a continuous cycle of assess, plan, do and review to ensure children with SEND are progressing – you will be part of the planning and review process at all times.

How will the setting adapt the EYFS Framework for my child's needs?

- Your key person will observe your child's interests, where they like to play (indoors or outside) and how they like to play (Characteristics of Learning) to plan how they can support your child's learning and development to promote the Prime and Specific areas of the EYFS. This individual planning approach, together with flexible daily routines offering long periods of child initiated play (both indoors and outdoors) make it possible for the EYFS Framework to be adapted to meet your child's needs.
- We may invite our Early Years Quality and Childcare Advisor to visit the setting to ensure we are doing our very best to meet the needs of your child and that the learning environment is suitably adapted to meet the needs of all children.

Our Early Years Quality and Childcare Adviser is able to suggest possible referral routes including the Professional Resource Group (PRG).

The groups meet once a term (6 times per year) in each of the 12 districts of Kent. The meetings are attended by representatives from the following services:

A core membership of;

- SENIF Finance Team
- Portage Manager / Officer
- STLS Teachers
- Early Years Quality Adviser
- SEND Support & Inclusion Practitioner
- EY Outreach Manager
- Health Visitor
- Family Hub
- Educational Psychologist
- Speech & Language Therapist
- SENIF Monitoring Officer

Other participants could also include;

- SEND Support & Inclusion Manager (Early Years)
 - EYC Quality Manager
 - EY Childminding Adviser
 - EY SEND Support & Inclusion County Co-ordinator
 - Sensory & PD Specialist Teachers
 - Other professionals as appropriate
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- They may also ask for permission to share any other relevant reports, e.g. from a Paediatrician or Speech Therapist.
 - All members of the PRG have to sign a confidentiality agreement to say that any discussions that are held in the meeting must not be shared with anyone outside the room.
 - The needs of your child cannot be discussed at the PRG meeting unless you have signed a Parental Consent Form and had the opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns on the form.
 - At the PRG meeting the Early Years Quality and Childcare Advisor will share the needs of your child and explain what has been tried to date to enable progress. Further strategies will be discussed such as;
 - 1 Support for you as a family.
 - 2 Access to children centre groups offered.
 - 3 A further visit from the E&I Team.
 - 4 The nursery/Preschool may be offered training pertinent to your child's needs.
 - 5 Or it may be decided that an Early Years Specialist Teacher should arrange to visit the nursery/Preschool and meet with you after observing your child and considering their next steps.
 - The outcomes of the PRG meeting will be shared with you by the SENCO. This will then enable targets to be set for your child and a plan will be prepared with you. This is called the Individual Educational Plan. It is reviewed regularly and the next steps in your child's learning journey planned together.

How would the setting support my child if they had 'additional needs'?

The term 'additional needs' is used to indicate that a child requires extra support or services so that they can fully participate – this could be a result of a temporary change in circumstances or it could be an on-going issue, eg a medical need which does not affect children's ability to learn. Children with 'additional' needs may or may not have special educational needs but probably do need extra support to make the effective progress. A child with additional needs may :

- have health care needs
- have delayed development
- a particular gift
- a disability
- problems arising from abuse, trauma, loss or grief
- belong to a group that may be disadvantaged, eg EAL, gypsy/Roma traveller

If your child had an additional need(s), we would adapt our practice to ensure their needs (like all children) were met. This may mean changing or extending our care routines, deployment and number of staff, the environment or helping families to access support from other agencies as well as adapting our teaching strategies.

What teaching strategies does the setting use for children with additional needs or learning difficulties?

- Woodpeckers uses a variety of different teaching strategies to support children with additional needs and learning difficulties including visual prompts, the use of Makaton sign language and individual and small group activities.
- In addition to your child's learning journal, your child will have targeted support, in the form of an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) written by your key person, SENCO and yourselves (the parents/carers) or by an outside agency, such as Speech and Language therapists or the Early Years Specialist Teacher. These IEPs are written using SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Accessible, Realistic/Relevant and Time-bound).
- We endeavor to involve your child as much as possible, enabling them to make choices and engage in activities/experiences that are of interest to them. Through ongoing observations and knowing your child, we will have a clear understanding of what your child likes and the level of involvement.

What additional support does the setting provide for children with SEND and additional needs?

- We aim to create a calm, yet stimulating environment for all children supported by visual prompts, visual timetables, sensory play as well as quiet, comfortable areas.
- Wherever possible, adaptations to the environment will be made to ensure the setting is accessible to all children and families.
- To help us audit our environment and put the right support and interventions in place, we use an Audit Tool called Best Practice Guidance for the Early Years to ensure we are offering the best support to your child.
- Partnership working is at the core of our work at Woodpeckers, and we are here not only to support your child, but also to offer you and your family support as well. Our open-door policy, ensures your key person and the SENCO are available to talk to you at any time to offer support and guidance for your family as well as your child. This may be in the form of training courses, services offered by the Children's Centre and support through Early Help.

How will the setting monitor my child's progress and how will I be involved in this?

- Your key person will aim to talk to you every day and share information on your child's progress, celebrating wow moments and explaining how they have been supporting your child during the day. If you are not able to drop your child off in the mornings or pick them up, we are happy to agree an alternative method of communicating with you.
- We have an 'open door' policy and are happy to talk to you at any time if you have a concern about your child's progress.

- Key person's update children's online learning journals (Family) every term to assess children's progress and plan 'next steps' for their learning and development following their characteristics of learning (the way in which they like to learn) and their interests/preferred learning environments (indoors/outdoors).
- Online Learning Journals ensures that you are regularly up to date with your child's progress and you are also able to upload your own photographs and observations to share with key persons. This is true partnership working, sharing information about children's interests and 'wow' moments at Preschool as well as at home!
- If your child has an additional IEP, these will be reviewed regularly with you.
- At the end of each term, the Supervisor carries out Summative Assessments across the whole EYFS framework with the SENCO to review all children's progress and development in the setting. This information is shared with parent/carers at Parent Consultations.

How do you ensure children with additional needs or SEND can be included in the same activities as other children, including trips?

- When activities and outings are planned, differentiation is used to ensure activities/outings are accessible across all ages and stages of development. It is always extremely important to us that we are inclusive for everyone and all children are able to access activities and outings. If we are unable to find a solution to ensure activities/outings are accessible to everyone, we will look to change the activity, venue or outing to ensure everyone is included.

How accessible is the building for children with mobility difficulties/wheelchair users?

- Our main building is a single-story building with ramps and disabled toilet area.

How will you support my child's transition to a new setting or school?

Transitions to new settings or Primary Schools are extremely important for children with SEND and we are happy to support children and families in the following ways:

- Transition meetings
- Inviting new key person's/teacher's/SENCO's into Woodpeckers to visit children.
- Written summary of children learning and development, including other important information, such as other agencies involved in your child's care.
- Key Person to support visits to settings/Primary School

How does the setting assess the overall effectiveness of its SEN provision and how can parents/carers take part in this evaluation?

Monitoring our effectiveness of our SEND provision is extremely important to us. We aim to collect information from a wide range of sources, target plan reviews, staff and management meetings, parental and external agencies views, inspections and complaints. This information is collated, evaluated and reviewed at least yearly.

What arrangements does the setting have for feedback from parents/carers, including compliments and complaints?

- Parents/carers are welcome to contact us at any time via email at Woodpeckersoffice@gmail.com, via Family or verbally if they have any compliments or complaints.
- Our Complaints Policy clearly states the procedure to be followed in the event of a complaint.
- Each year, we ask parents/carers to complete our annual questionnaire. The results from this questionnaire are shared with parents/carers.

Who should I contact if I am considering registering for a place at my setting?

- If you are considering registering your child at Woodpeckers Preschool, please email Mandy Swift or Sarah Bartholomew at Woodpeckersoffice@gmail.com or telephone 01580 720195 to make an appointment to visit our setting.

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