



Owlets Pre-School

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'Our Local Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Offer'

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 (special educational need/learning difficulty or disability)

Owlets Pre-School is committed to early identification of special educational need and adopt a graduated response to meeting special educational need in line with the Code of Practice 2014.

Your key person will meet with you throughout the term as and when required and also arrange private termly consultations where you can provide feedback about how you feel your child is progressing and provide information about your child and their interests. Your child will be assessed using the development milestones taken from The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the Department of Education document Early Years Outcomes.

At pre-school we have regular staff meetings to discuss all aspects of the care and learning we are providing and reflect on our practice to maintain a high quality, safe learning environment.

How our setting works in partnership with parents/carers

We realise that early support is paramount in how we differentiate the learning environment and activities for individual children. We feedback to parents on a daily basis verbally at the end of the session to share your child's achievements. Our open door policy means that you are welcome to speak to member of staff at any time to share information.

We schedule meetings with you initially to compile a SEND plan and then regularly review this with you to adjust targets and feedback on progress.

We will meet with you and other agencies to ensure that we are part of the wider support network e.g. Health Visitors, Speech & Language and Early Years Support Teachers to improve the home school environment.

Through our parent information noticeboard we inform parents of local and relevant support groups and training opportunities.

How our setting supports the wellbeing of young children with SEND

Owlets Pre-School has a clear policy to promote positive behaviour. We believe that children flourish best when they know how they are expected to behave and when they are encouraged to respect themselves and each other and express their emotions through play and discussion.

We work with families and other professionals to support the children to be able to manage their own behaviour through self-management. We support children to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to become autonomous in making good judgments and choices in relation to others and social skills, such as negotiation and problem-solving.

Owlets Pre-School has clear policy and procedures, and recording system for administering medication. We attend necessary training required and all staff are First Aid Trained.

We believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. Rigorous risk assessments of the environment and activities are carried out to minimise the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Where necessary individual health care plans and individual risk assessments would be completed to provide a safe and accessible environment and the appropriate care for individual children.

If your child is not yet toilet trained we will support and work in partnership with parents/carers to provide care appropriate to the needs of the individual child and together we will produce a care plan.

Staff training and experience in supporting young children with SEND

All staff have a wealth of experience of child development and all have achieved a Level 2/3 in a Child Care qualification.

At Owlets Pre-School we have experience of working with children with a range of SEND including children on the autism spectrum, children with speech, language and communication needs and children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Joanne Rockall & Shelly Warmoth have attended the Local Authority three day training in SEND.

We also have links with The Avenue in Biggleswade, for additional support with children on the Autism Spectrum.

All staff have safeguarding training and appropriate levels achieved. We regularly access and refresh training.

Specialist services and expertise accessed by our setting

Owlets Pre-School liaises closely with a range of outside agencies in order to seek expertise from a wide range of external professionals to support children with SEND. They contribute through providing observations, reports, advice for staff and parents and by attending professional meetings.

These agencies may include:-

- Local Authority Early Years SEND Advisory Teachers (Psychology and Advisory Support Service).
- Early Years Support Team (EYST)
- The Child Development Centre, Kempston (CDC)
- Child Bereavement, Trauma and Emotional Wellbeing Service (CHUMS)
- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- School and Community Nursing Service
- The Virtual School for Looked After Children (LAC)
- The Hearing Impaired Team (HI)
- The Visually Impaired Team (VI)

Please speak to your key person, Joanne Rockall or Shelly Warmoth our SENCo's if your child is seeing any professionals and with your permission we will liaise and work with them to ensure we get the appropriate support to care for your child.

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

All children are included in all parts of the pre-school's curriculum including visits off the pre-school premises.

We risk assess all aspects of the pre-school to ensure that all activities and outings are accessible and safe for all children.

We regularly reflect on what we do at the pre-school so that we are continuously making improvements to the environment and activities to extend the children's learning and experiences.

Our accessible environment

Owlets Pre-School is a pack away setting based in the Methodist Church Hall, within the village. The building has wheelchair access and accessible toilet facilities.

We use visual prompts and visual & object schedule timetables to support children with language and communication issues empowering them to participate and achieve success and independence.

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

Prior to first starting at Owlets Pre-School you and your child will be invited to visit the setting or a home visit would be arranged so that we can get to know your child.

Your child will be assigned a key person who helps ensure that your child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs.

If necessary in consultation with yourself and other professionals involved with your child, we will try to ensure that the appropriate equipment will be in place to make entry into pre-school as smooth as possible and that they can access all areas and activities.

We work closely with local schools to support your child during this transition; for example, teachers from the local schools visit the pre-school to meet the children during the summer term as part of the transition process.

Also during the summer term, your child will be supported by their key person on their transition days to the school.

If your child requires extra support or has specific requirements we will work with you and other professionals working with your child to share information with the relevant school. A meeting will be set up with you, the school, other professional and ourselves to discuss the best way to move forward for your child and make the transition as smooth as possible for your child and your family.

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

We carefully assess, monitor and review your child's individual needs and interests. Resources are then allocated so that they can have full access to the equipment and activities in all areas of learning.

How we decide on appropriate support for young children with SEND

Through observations and assessment your child's key person will discuss with our SENCo whether your child will benefit from additional support. When necessary extra support is promptly put into place and this is reviewed regularly to learn what impact the support has had on your child's learning and development, and what should be put in to place next.

How we involve all parents/carers in our setting

Owlets Pre-School is committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practise for all children. We comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (2010) in making reasonable adjustments for children with SEND.

We believe that children benefit most from parents and practitioners working in partnership and this results in a positive impact on children's development and learning. Parents/carers are welcome to come into pre-school at any time to speak to the team and to see what their child is doing.

Parent/carers are welcome to help at sessions or come into share special events and festivals.

Who to contact for further information

Please contact the Manager/SENCo Joanne Rockall or our SENCo Shelly Warmoth to discuss your child's needs and ask any questions. We will arrange for you and your child to visit the pre-school so that you can see our setting and meet the staff and spend time talking about any concerns and questions.