



# St Nick's Nursery

## Our SEN and Disability offer

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### How does the pre-school/ nursery know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child has special educational needs?

Your child will be offered a visit by the nursery before your child's start date. At this visit you will be offered the opportunity to discuss any concerns that you may have regarding any additional needs that you feel your child may have. In this way the nursery practitioners will be best placed to support your child from day one.

Your child will be given a key worker who will spend time getting to know your child in a variety of learning settings. After approximately six weeks, the key worker will be in a well-informed position to make an initial assessment of your child's needs.

The nursery has two qualified ISENDCOs who are available to talk about specific concerns. These practitioners frequently update their training to ensure that they are best placed to support the children in the nursery.

Your child's key worker will also be able to signpost you to other agencies if required, such as speech and language, Children Centre Key Worker Services etc.

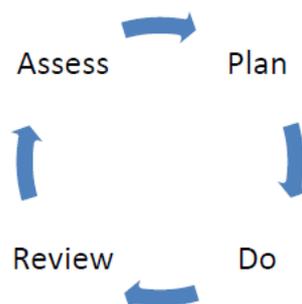
### How will the pre-school/ nursery support my child with special educational needs?

Your child's key worker will be your main point of contact, however all staff are available and willing to help in any way possible. They can help with referrals to other agencies as well as assisting with additional 1:1 funding.

Children's progress is recorded in their learning journals and you are welcome to look at these at any time.

All children who have additional needs have a Setting Based Support Plan (SBSP) which is shared regularly ensuring that all staff have an up to date knowledge of your child's needs. From this your child's Key Worker can ensure that activities planned help your child reach his or her targets.

The nursery regularly updates their Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and development plan which is available for all to see.



Children are assessed regularly and this assessment informs planning. These planned activities will enable your child to move forward to the next step.

## **How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child/ young person will receive?**

Your child's additional needs will be assessed by the ISENDCO and outside agencies involved and the appropriate equipment will be funded for, if required, and brought into the nursery before your child's first session. This will be assessed regularly to ensure that your child's needs are met throughout their time with us.

If all relevant agencies agree that your child would benefit from additional support, a decision will be made as to what form this will take. It may be the purchase of resources or support from an individual needs worker on a 1:1 basis.

For more information visit:

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/send-education/sen/funding/early-years/>

## **How will the pre-school/ nursery review my child's progress and how shall they share it with me?**

We offer regular parents/carers evenings where you are invited in to discuss your child's progress. Throughout the year we send home monthly newsletters, this will include some home learning tips. We also offer a lending library with different books and themed treasure baskets.

We complete a 27month check which clearly shows how your child has progressed and how their learning has developed in all areas of the Early Year's Foundation Stage. This is discussed with parents/carers and next steps are planned for nursery and home learning. Initial assessments are completed regularly to monitor your child's learning to ensure that they fulfil their potential and we can plan individual activities to develop their learning. Language checkers are completed with parent/carers to ensure that all children are reaching their milestones; this form checks that children are communicating and socialising with others according to their age and stage; the form also gives us a chance to meet with children and families with English as an additional language and check that their children are communicating in their home language. This gives parents/carers chance to contribute to their child's assessment process using their knowledge of their child at home. If children need some extra support we can then sign post them to other agencies such as Toddler Talk, Speech and Language etc. Summative Assessments are completed once a term to assess your child's learning in all areas, these are discussed during parents evening and next steps are discussed and planned for nursery and home learning.

## **What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?**

Staff will regularly liaise with outside agencies involved and with parents/ carers and will always be on hand to offer support and sign post you to services/project that would be able to meet any needs you may have. Your child's key worker will support your child's overall well-being during their time at nursery and ensure that their needs are met;

medical care, personal care, behavioural management and social support to ensure that your child is safe and happy in our care.

## **What training do the staff have in supporting children with special educational needs or disabilities?**

The staff have had the following training:

- ISENDCO training (2 staff) 1 other member of staff is currently attending training.
- Behavioural management training (all staff)
- Autism spectrum training (all staff) 4 staff
- Bereavement training (all staff) Manager is a specialist bereavement counsellor
- Makaton training (all staff)
- Down syndrome training (all staff)
- Epi pen training (all staff)
- Dealing with severe allergy training (all staff)
- Child protection training (all staff)
- Deaf awareness training (all staff)
- Attachment issues (one member of staff)

If needed, any additional training will be undertaken before your child starts.

Staff will regularly liaise with outside agencies involved and with parents/ carers and will always be on hand to offer support and sign post you to services/projects that would be able to meet any needs you may have. Your child's Key Worker will support your child's overall well-being during their time at nursery and ensure that their needs are met i.e. medical care, personal care, behavioural management and social support, to ensure that your child is safe and happy in our care.

For more information visit:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/send-education/sen/services-supporting-schools>

## **How will my child/young person be included in activities outside the pre-school/ nursery, including trips?**

All children are regularly able to go on trips on a 1:2 ratios. We value the importance of trips and the learning that takes place so we ensure that all children are able to go on outings. We encourage partnership with parents/carers to ensure that they are confident and that their child's individual needs are met on trips, encouraging them to assist in some outings as and when they can. Before all trips and outings a risk assessment is completed, linked to the Outings Policy and Procedure. We also take into account your child's individual needs and medical needs. All staff are First Aid trained and carry medical supplies and are aware of the emergency procedure. We are able to use any equipment that would assist your child during a trip, e.g. wheelchair, hearing aids, specialised pushchair etc. Before the trip we will ensure that the environment we are visiting is suitable and accessible for your child. We will also have flash cards, Makaton signs and symbols and other communication support for your child throughout the trip to ensure that they are able to communicate with others and communicate their needs.

## How accessible is the pre-school/ nursery?

The nursery is a two storey building with the nursery on the first floor with access to lift to gain access to the nursery, the doors are wide enough to allow for wheelchairs and walkers comfortably. The layout of the nursery allows enough space between tables, chairs and furniture for wheel chairs and walkers so that all children can join in with all activities. We have access to one wheel chair accessible toilet and the other toilets are low to floor so that all ages and abilities are able to use them.

We have additional equipment and resources available to ensure that children with additional needs are still able to achieve their full potential. In and around the nursery we have visual support; Makaton signs and symbols, dual language welcome signs, books and activity signs to ensure all feel welcomed and included within the environment. We can access a translator programme to support children and families with English as an additional language through the Children's Centres.

All our displays and resources reflect diversity to ensure children and families from all backgrounds feel welcomed and included.

## How will the pre-school/nursery help my child move on to school?

We have a long transition procedure where we visit all the schools the children will attend and make photos booklets about the school with the children so we can discuss the next exciting stage in their life. If a child is moving to another setting their key worker makes a detailed moving on assessment to pass on the other school/nursery. This will include a detailed assessment of learning and progress in all areas and characteristics of effective learning. This is discussed with parents so you can contribute before sending to the other setting. A learning journal is completed throughout your child's time at nursery which is a celebration of your child's individual achievements, interest and learning and will include observations of his/her experiences, photographs and pieces of work. This shows us how they are developing and making progress, and we encourage all parent/carers to contribute to this document, with observations and assessments.

## Give us your views about this information

Contact [localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk) or call Information for Families 0345 60 80 192

## More information, advice and support

The local offer- what is available for children and young people with special educational needs in East Sussex

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer)

Information for Families (including SEN and disability advice service)

Phone: 0345 60 80 192

Text: 07797 870317

email [informationforfamilies@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:informationforfamilies@eastsussex.gov.uk)

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/informationforfamilies](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/informationforfamilies)

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Date issued: [31<sup>st</sup> January 2017]

Review due (one year): [January 2018]

