

LOCAL OFFER: LITTLE COMMON NURSERY
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DATE: updated May 2019

How does the nursery know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

Practitioners aim to create a supportive relationship with families. There is a strong parent/ carer partnership which enables children's developmental needs to be met. The key person system enables practitioners to closely observe children and there are plenty of opportunities to liaise with key practitioners which enables parents/carers to share information. We have a peripatetic trained SENDCO who will be able to support families. Your child's key person or the SENDCO can arrange meetings to discuss ideas with you and can also liaise with outside agencies.

All children will be offered a home visit before they start the nursery and this will ensure that you are given the opportunity to discuss any additional needs your child may have or any concerns you have about your development.

How will nursery staff support my child?

Children's next steps are carefully planned with parents and carers and the nursery aims to keep in contact with children's families valuing parent's/carers views highly. The nursery will follow children's interests, their likes and dislikes to plan opportunities for their further development. Your child's key worker will observe your child and plan focused activities around their needs and interests. We will work closely with you so we are taking a consistent approach, aiming for the best outcome for your child. The SENDCO and all other staff will be aware of your child's needs and be available to offer support and help at any time.

Your child may have a Setting Based Support Plan (SBSP), this is a plan with SMART targets. These are targets that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timed which are in line with your child's needs. This is made with input from yourselves, outside agencies if relevant and the nursery SENDCO which will be completed and reviewed by you and your child's key worker together every 6 weeks. This timeframe is flexible and reviews can be brought forward if needed.

The nursery works closely with other services which may be able to support your child.

We can signpost you to these services or support a referral to outside agencies. 1:1 support is dependent on receiving additional funding will be reviewed regularly to ensure the best interest of your child. If any of these services work with your child, we will organise regular reviews with them to share information and plan next steps to ensure consistent and targeted care to support your child's development.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Each child is planned for individually following their next steps for development and their current interests. These next steps are recorded in children's learning journeys and we will also link this to ideas and learning from home. All children will be given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities and we will make reasonable adjustments to tailor them to individual children's needs.

How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

We hold regular consultations with parents and carers where we share children's learning; we hold termly parent and carer evenings and additional meetings if families would like them. Parents and carers are given daily feedback on how their child is doing at the nursery. We will share regular home learning ideas, suggesting ways that you can continue to support your child's current interest at home. We link home learning and nursery learning together and families are also welcome to contribute to their child's learning journeys.

Children's well-being is supported in the nursery through the role of the key person. We carry out activities regularly with the children with an aim to support their well-being through the use of small group work and a range of activities including the emotions board and dolls and sharing books around feelings. Each child's emotional well-being is recorded regularly as part of our planning cycle.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the nursery?

There is a peripatetic SENDCO who supports the practitioners and children in the nursery. As a part of a wider organisation we also have access to many other supportive services that are run by FSN. We have links with the local children's centres, health visitors, community nursery nurses and we are able to sign post families to a range of activities and events. We also have good links with many additional services that with permission we are able to refer families to including The Children's Integrated Therapy Service and ISEND.

What training has the staff supporting children with SEND had or are having?

As part of a wider organisation there are 5 qualified SENDCOs who share support and knowledge. SENDCOs attend inclusion support meetings three times a year to ensure practice is up to date. All practitioners regularly attend training to extend and refresh their knowledge; this is cascaded to the rest of the team. The nursery also liaises with the other projects and senior managers to share ideas from training and develop further skills.

Child Protection Training (all staff)

Behaviour Management Training (all staff)

Makaton (1 staff)

Epi-Pen (all staff)

Schema Training (2 staff)

Social and emotional aspects of development (SEAD) training (1 staff)

Positive attachment training (1 staff)

Impact of Adult Mental Health on Children and Young People (1 staff)

How will my child be included in activities outside the setting including trips and outings?

The nursery carefully plans for and adapts any activities or outings that the nursery is taking part in to suit the needs and abilities of all children. Practitioners regularly carry out risk assessments and trips are planned around the interests or needs of the children. Occasionally the nursery may be able to access additional funding to further support these kinds of activities and all outings follow a high ratio of one adult to two children or one adult to one child if necessary. Parents are encouraged to take part in outings and children are able to bring any specialist equipment along with them.

How accessible is the nursery environment?

The nursery environment is easily accessible by everyone, we have slopes and ramps and are on one level to enable safe access. The double doors and flat grounding with ramps enable easy accessibility, there is also a bathroom that has disabled access.

How will you prepare and support my child to join the nursery, transfer to a new setting or school or the next stage of education and life?

At the beginning of each child's time with us we will arrange a home visit to enable families to share as much information about their child as possible. This enables us to plan a careful transition into the nursery, we also offer settling in

visits which enable parents and carers to stay and play with their child before they start at the nursery; this helps to support a gradual settling in process. To help with transitions to other settings including schools we help to prepare your child as much as possible. We gather information about local schools to support parent/carer decision making for schools. Additionally, we can support families with their applications for schools. Practitioners attend network meetings and school open days and begin liaising with local school teachers as soon as you have found out the school placement for your child. We also take time to visit schools with the children so that they can experience the new environment with a familiar face. We have further information leaflets which we share with families to help them to get their children ready for school and while practising many school skills at nursery we link this into home learning ideas too with our home learning letters. We ensure that children have access to photographs of their new school and carry out small group activities that enable children to express themselves. If a child attends or will be attending another setting, we can share a nursery link book with them and are happy to share information including learning journeys with parent or carer permission.

How are the setting's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

All resources are set out according to the individual needs and interests of the children, we can also adapt ideas to develop children's learning and interests further through the use of extra resources such as Makaton. We may also be able to source additional EYISF (Early Years Inclusion Support Fund) money dependant on your child's needs.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

The nursery is well resourced and these are matched to children's individual needs. Your child's additional needs will be assessed by the ISENDSCO and any outside agencies involved and the appropriate equipment will be funded, if required, and brought into the nursery as soon as possible. This will be reviewed regularly to ensure that your child's needs are met throughout their time with us.

How are parents involved in the nursery? How can I be involved?

We develop links with parents and carers from the beginning of their child's time at Little Common Nursery. We begin by home visiting which enables us to ask parents and carers if they have any special skills they might like to share with the nursery. Parents and carers are invited in for 'stay and play sessions' and regularly.

Working in partnership with parents and carers practitioners spend time talking to parents and carers at handovers. We encourage parents and carers to carry out home learning activities and also share interesting things that their child may have achieved through email, our Facebook page or verbally sharing this with us. Parents, carers and family members are welcome to help out on trips and outings to the community. We hold termly parent and carer evenings to enable families to share their children's learning and we will ask for feedback too to enable parents and carers to contribute their own ideas.

Who can I contact for further information?

For further information, the nursery team can be contacted on 01424 848574, additionally our main centre number is 01424 423683. We have an e-mail address and there is further information on our website

littlecommonnursery@fsncharity.co.uk

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

- www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer