

Special Educational Needs of children and how we meet them in Fledglings Early Years Centre.

How do Fledglings staff know if a child needs extra support and what should I, as a parent, if I think my child may need extra support in their learning?

Staff will assess children when they first start in the setting. They will observe the child daily and get to know the child. We will ask parents to fill in information forms about their child before they start. This will give staff the background information. Through experience and knowledge staff can identify if children need additional support in certain areas of development.

Parents can raise concerns using the information forms we ask you to fill in or on the home visits or play visits. We have an open door policy which enables all parents to come into the setting and talk with staff. We also have parents meetings at certain times of the year and on request.

How will the early years practitioners support my child and how will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Each child in Fledglings has a Personal Pathway, which shows the children's progress and learning journey. Each child has a key person who will plan the child's next steps in their learning. All staff contribute to the weekly planning which allows staff to plan appropriately for all children.

We support all children's needs individually by planning their own personal next steps in their learning. These are shared with all staff on our next steps board. If we feel one child needs more support we will seek advice first from the parents then from the Local Senco Advisor.

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

We carry out 1 parents' evening each term, but parents are more than welcome to make an appointment with your child's key person at any time. Parents have access to their child's personal pathway at any time. We share these with all parents once a term, the file goes home and parents are asked to add observations and comments. However parent can access these at any time.

Each term staff will assess where all the children are in each area of learning. These are then discussed as a team to see if there are any children or areas of learning that we need to look at.

Staff will discuss with each parent in parents' evening where their child is in their development and where they should be. Every child is different and learns in different ways and at different rates. Staff will be able to advise parents on how they can help move their child forward at home if asked.

Each day the staff will inform parents what we have done in the day by writing on the whiteboard which is displayed in the entrance area.

We ask for comments and ideas to be added onto the planning sheet that is displayed in the entrance area, or you can talk to staff.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

All children are supported by all staff. Staff are trained in all areas of development and know how to support all children's needs. If a child needs specific support which requires trained staff we will ensure that this training takes place. Specific support plans can be put into place for a child with additional needs, be that social, emotional, physical etc.

How will Fledglings ensure they take account of my child's views as appropriate?

We have a number of school policies put in place to ensure that we give the children choices to make on their own. We ask the children their opinions and views about who they want to help them and what activities they would like to do.

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

We have highly trained staff with over 50 years of combined experience of the early years. We have all supported children through our setting with a number of different needs with the help and support of the families. We have access to Local Authority advice and support when it is required.

What training have the staff supporting children with SEN and disabilities had or are having?

We have a trained SENCO who works with the children in the setting. We have training for all staff if a child with specific needs attends. We do this through regular staff meetings and training courses. We will talk to the families of children with additional needs to see what support they want for their child and how they believe it will work best for their child. If we feel it is appropriate we will contact the area Senco for advice.

How will my child be included in activities outside Fledglings including trips?

We go on regular walks within the local area and we would plan the walks taking into account the child's needs. We will have sufficient staff to help support all the children and make sure that the activities we have planned are suitable for all children to access. We do go on a trip once a year and we would cater for all children and make sure that the destination is suitable and that they can access all the activities. We have ensured that we provide transport for all children which is suitable for all children. We will liaise with parents about how we manage the trips and what is best for the child on the trip.

How accessible is Fledglings environment?

The building is fully wheelchair accessible. All resources are at the children's level so access is easy for all children. We will discuss with the family about the space within the classroom and if we need to adjust or change the set up to ensure that the child can access all areas freely. We have disabled facilities for children and adults. We use visual aids for example pictures to support all children. We use auditory resources to help children with the routine. If a family does not speak English we have services available to support them within the setting.

How will Fledglings prepare and support my child to join the setting, transfer to a new setting or move onto school?

We offer play visits and home visits to all children to help them to settle within the setting. We feel that coming to a new environment with people you don't know can be a scary experience without a familiar adult there to support you. We understand that all children are different and need different levels of support. We will discuss with each family how they feel their child will cope and what we can do to support them with starting in Fledglings. We also liaise with other settings who share the same child. This is so that we can make sure that we are supporting the children

together and we can discuss any issues or concerns. We hope to make the transition from Fledglings to school a smooth process. If they are going to attend our primary school, we introduce the class teachers to the children on a regular basis through story swaps; the reception teacher comes in and reads the children in Fledglings a story. We also have open door sessions with the reception classes. We send a small group of Fledglings children to play in the reception class and a small group come to play in the Fledglings' class. We also have a lunchtime club for the older children in the school. A small group of older children come in to play with us for half an hour to get to know the children so that when they go to school Fledglings children know some of the older children.

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

This decision is made with the family and the child's key person. We will have open discussions with you about how we think your child needs supporting. We also will involve Local Authority experts who will be able to advise us about support they can offer and if we need extra funding to support your child. We can also do a pre-school entry meeting in where we will sit down with all professionals involved with your child and plan how we can support them in Fledglings. This will involve the family as we value your input as you are the child's main carer and educator. We will set up review meetings throughout the year to make sure we are still offering the right support for the child.

Who can I contact for further information?

You can contact your child's key person as your first point of contact. If you are unable to contact them then another member of staff will always be willing to help and support when needed. We also have the support of the school head teacher who will be happy to assist in any way they can. If you have any questions please contact us on 01823 432569 and we will be happy to help.