



Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

At Alfresco childcare we aim to have regard to the DfES Code of Practice on special educational needs (SEN), and also to other guidelines supplied of both private and voluntary providers of Foundation Stage education.

Equality Act 2010 - Article 7 states that for children with disabilities:

1. Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.
2. In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
3. Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

Our Aims and Objectives

At Alfresco childcare we aim to:

- Promote an inclusive environment where all children are encouraged to reach their true potential and build a firm basis for life long learning.
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is accessible to all children and recognises individual need.
- Work in partnership with parents and other professionals to monitor individual progress and plan for future targets.
- Keep up to date with current initiatives and attend in-service training on Special Educational Needs whenever possible.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO):

The needs and progress of all children with SEN will be monitored by our SENCO.

Our named SENCO is Jessica Woods

Her role is to:

- Be familiar with the Code of Practice (new).
- Work in close partnership with parents and staff to identify and monitor plans for individual learning for those with special needs.

- Attend regular training courses and be aware of the training needs of other adults (including parents where appropriate) working within our setting.
- Liaise with and work alongside outside agencies and key professionals as necessary.
- Ensure that up to date records of children with SEN are made and that these are monitored regularly.
- Ensure that records are made accessible to parents, key staff and professionals working with the child.

Admissions

We recognise and value the needs of all children and are therefore keen to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to become an integral part of Alfresco life. All children are admitted following full consultation with parents/carers and any outside agencies who may be involved. In this way we aim to consider both staffing levels and the physical environmental to ensure that we are able to support the child to the best of our ability. We are eager to provide for the needs of the child and will endeavour to acquire specialist toys and equipment whenever possible.

Parental Partnership

We recognise that parents are the prime educators of their children. We are therefore keen to establish strong links to ensure successful transition and continued partnership. Parents will be invited to share information and discuss their child's progress regularly, both formally and informally. In this way we aim to promote continuity of care and support between the child, their key worker, the SENCO and parents.

Identification and Assessment of SEND

Once a place has been allocated parents/carers are encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise about their child's strengths and needs. This information is then shared formally with staff and an Individual Play Plan will be devised for those with particular educational needs, under the guidance of the SENCO. These plans will be monitored regularly in consultation with parents, staff and individual progress will be assessed continually. Where there are concerns about the progress of an individual who has not previously been identified as having SEND, care will be taken to work closely with parents and staff to monitor and assess development. Under the guidance of the SENCO, support may then be requested from outside agencies and professionals where appropriate.

Liaison with Outside Agencies

We liaise closely with outside agencies such as, Health, Education and Social Services, Educational Psychologists and Speech and Language to seek information, advice and support as required.

Involving the Child

Where possible and when appropriate, dependant on the age and stage of the child's development, the child's voice will be heard during any discussions about their care plans. We will plan activities and targets that follow the child's interests and will keep their best interests at the centre of any approach that is taken.

Disabled Access