

Special Needs Policy

We have regard to

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice January 2015

The Children and Families Act 2014, Part 3

Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage from 2014

UNCRC

And also the provisions of the Equality Act 2010

The Ark will offer a place for any child with special needs, provided we can offer a positive experience of learning through play. Our aim is for all children to be included in all activities wherever possible. We will modify the curriculum as necessary to take account of the child's needs and this will be decided on an individual basis in consultation with carers.

Access

We will:

- Make every reasonable attempt to provide access for children with special needs
- Assess each child's needs in terms of access and adapt our facilities as appropriate as far as possible
- We will discuss each case on an individual basis with parents and relevant professionals.
- Please see our Admissions Policy for further information

Assessment

We will:

- Observe all the children attending in order to identify any special educational needs that they may have, including those who are gifted
- We will ask for relevant detail on the admission form from the parents/carers about any special educational needs they have identified in their child on the registration form
- Talk to the parent/carer and child about what they want
- Ascertain the needs of the child, including medical requirements
- Discuss abilities
- Analyse our ability to offer positive care, both in the physical environment, as well as staff and their suitability

Support and expertise

We will:

- Contact the relevant professionals with the parent's permission, for advice and support.
- Ensure staff will work together with parents/carers as partners to give day to day care and education for the child and support the parents/carers
- Ensure that all children are treated individually and are encouraged to take part in every aspect of the settings activities
- Promote positive images of those with special needs
- Endeavour to appoint staff with experience and knowledge
- Investigate opportunities for training of staff and volunteers, and encourage the staff team to attend training where appropriate
- Provide support in following the stages through The Graduated Response:

1. A differentiated curriculum
 2. Targeted support by ourselves
 3. Targeted support by ourselves and Specialist services
 4. An EHC Needs Assessment
 5. An EHC.
- We will pass any records drawn up by us in respect of a child to any new setting that a child moves on to, providing that the child's parents have given their consent.
 - Assess, Plan, Do and Review.

Resources

We have the following resources to help provide for special educational needs:

The building is wheelchair accessible. Staff are trained in alternative communication methods such as 'Signalong'. Our tables are height adjustable to allow easy access to activities for all. We have an easy access toilet. Other specialist resources are available on loan from the Dorset Early Years and Childcare Services and other professional and charitable services.

Funding

Funding for children within the Graduated Response pyramid may be available from the Special Education team in Dorset County Council's Education Department for up to 15 hours per week. This might be used to fund a member of staff to observe and support the child, for training, and as laid down in the SEN Code of Practice.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO) are Sarah McNab and Carly Ricketts.

The key worker and Manager will liaise with the parents/carers of the child.

The role of the SENCO is to take responsibility for the day-to-day operation of The Ark's SEN policy and to co-ordinate provision for children with SEN, particularly through the Graduated Response

External Support

The Ark can access support from the following list of professionals although this list should not be seen as exhaustive:

Speech Therapist, Health Visitor, Portage, Educational Psychologist, DCC's Special Needs Adviser, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapy and support groups for particular cases.