



## Our Local Offer

At Little Smarties we believe each and every child is unique and have different needs. We are inclusive of all children and promote equality and diversity, making adjustments throughout the year to ensure we are creating an environment where all children can learn and grow through our extensive work with SEND children and their parents/carers.

We have a SEND policy which is available for all to read.

### **1. How our setting knows if young children need extra help and what our parents/carers should do if they think their child may have SEND.**

Little Smarties make it a priority to observe children daily. We understand that talking about your child perhaps needing extra support can be hard but truly believe that support only allows your child to grow in the best way they can.

Each child has their own key person with whom they spend time with, not only to learn, but also for play and communication, creating a secure base for them to start their journey. We pride ourselves on communication both within the team and with parents/carers. We feel that this is the only way that a successful outcome can be achieved for each child. Through these observations our practitioners are skilled in recognising possible delays in learning and/or difficulties the child may be having with certain areas of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum.

The key person has regular conversations with the parents/carers about how they are developing and what they have achieved at the end of each day, creating an opportunity to book a meeting with the SENCO and key person if they want to go into more depth.

The setting has regular contact with the Inclusion Officer for our cluster group which allows the staff to raise any concerns they may have. We also have a lead SENCo in the setting who takes time out to work with specific children or listen to any concerns members of staff/parents/carers might have. Our SENCo will also liaise with other agencies such as, Health Visitors and Speech Therapists where the need arises.

The parents are then asked if they would be happy for us to discuss their child, in a positive way and how their child could develop further.

Once this has been done, the parents/carers have another meeting with the SENCO and key person about what has been discussed and how their child can move on with the right support for them.

### **2. How our setting supports young children with SEND.**

Before your child starts at Little Smarties we like to make a visit to your home or via Zoom to talk about your child's interests, likes, dislikes, etc. This gives us an idea of your child before they even start. A key person is allocated to your child in order for them to have a 'go to' person from the very beginning.

As previously mentioned, there are many people involved in ensuring that your child is supported fully in the right way for them to benefit from the curriculum and to develop. The Inclusion Officer, our SENCo, our Autism Lead and Behaviour Lead and other agencies work together to guarantee that all the right things are put in place for your child in the best way possible.

Where possible, the strategies we use are linked to their interests, so that the child is engaged instantly. This has been something that has worked extremely well.

### **3. How our setting creates learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND.**

Nursery practitioners at Little Smarties have the time to develop and share planning. Termly and weekly planning is given great thought to so that all areas of the curriculum are covered, focusing on how each activity can be differentiated for individual children.

Although the learning is both adult and child led, for our SEND children we create 1:1 time with their key person, or appropriate adult, to concentrate on the areas that these children may need. Where applicable, resources are bought in to strengthen and deepen the learning to enhance progression.

### **4. How our setting works in partnership with parents/carers.**

The key person for the individual child has many opportunities to discuss any positives or concerns with the parents or carers. The nursery also uses an online assessment tool called Tapestry which allows parents/carers, when not at the setting, to see what their children are learning. Each parent/carer can access their child's learning journal, another tool for parents/carers to follow the progress of their child. These are opportunities to celebrate the achievements your child is making but to also talk about ways forward in providing what your child needs for his/her well-being and to make progress.

### **5. How our setting supports the well-being of young children with SEND.**

All children, before starting, are given the chance of pre-visits. Little Smarties has two transition officers in place to help with this, one for under 3's and one for over.

We offer 3 settling in sessions, or however many the parent/carer and key person believes the child may need. These normally mean that the parent/carer stays with them for the first 2-hour visit, then we slowly increase the hours and reduce contact with the parent/carer so that the child begins to feel safe and secure in the setting. The key person plays a significant role in this transition, ensuring the child develops a rapport with them, allowing them to grow from the very beginning, feeling safe and secure. The staff create a loving, caring environment which in turn, helps children to feel safe and helps them to familiarise themselves with Little Smarties.

### **6. Staff training and experience in supporting young children with SEND.**

The owner of Little Smarties has 15 years' experience with SEND children which provides the setting with a strong foundation to help support *your* 'Little Smarties'.

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) within the setting takes the lead on a day-to-day basis regarding this area. The Inclusion Officer gives advice and guidance where needed and is always on hand to help with referrals, etc.

All staff have the appropriate and up-to-date Safeguarding Training. Many have Paediatric First Aid Certificates (or First Aid, depending on the age of the children they are working with) to ensure the safety of the children.

The setting has a nominated Autism Lead who works alongside the SENCO with relevant training to extend what we can offer further.

### **7. Specialist services and expertise accessed by our setting.**

Little Smarties accesses a range of other agencies to help plan and source the most beneficial support for the individual child. These consist of the Inclusion Officer, Speech and Language, Early Years SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) Team, SHINE (who offer specialist interventions), Healthy Family Support Worker and at times, Families in Focus. The use of these agencies will change depending on the child's individual need(s) and more agencies can be accessed where needed.

### **8. How our setting includes young children with SEND in community-based activities and outings.**

Little Smarties is inclusive of all children and ensures that everyone takes part in the experiences offered. The Nursery has introduced a 'Cultural Capital Timetable', led by the Nurseries EYFS Curriculum Manager which gives children, throughout the Nursery, no matter what their age, the experiences for them learn and grow even more outside of the Nursery setting!! Thorough risk assessments are completed before taking the children out. All parents are asked to sign a consent form which explains what the trip is for and what the children will be learning, and detailed plans are made to highlight any areas where our SEND children will need differentiation to enhance their experience in a way they can benefit. The nursery also hosts a Holiday Club which welcomes all children with SEND to participate and have fun!

### **9. Our accessible environment.**

Little Smarties is situated in a rural location. This is fantastic for our SEND children who visually and kinaesthetically learn from the many outside opportunities we have. The building is all on one level and contains a large garden area in which the children can both play and learn.

The nursery has a car park at the front so that parents/carers do not have to deal with worries of busy roads when dropping off and collecting their children.

Visual signs are implemented around the nursery for children to recognise objects and the names for them. This is to allow them to become more independent.

We provide an environment in which all children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported to reach their full potential.

We have in place a clear approach for identifying, responding to, and meeting children's special educational needs. At Little Smarties, we have a 'Little Learning hub' that children can access if they require a more individualised learning environment. This is staffed by

qualified individuals who plan and adapt the curriculum to suit the educational and behavioural needs of the children using it. We support and involve parents (and where relevant, children), actively listening to, and acting on their wishes and concerns. We work in partnership with the local authority and other external agencies to ensure the best outcomes for children with SEND and their families. We regularly monitor and review our policy, practice and provision and, if necessary, make adjustments.

#### **10. How our setting prepares and supports young children with SEND when joining the setting and when transferring to another setting or school.**

Our settling-in sessions play a big part in supporting children when joining the setting. We also give parents and carers the opportunity to come and look round before deciding if Little Smarties is the right setting for their child. If the setting feels right for the parents/carers then they are asked to complete a registration form which gives us information, such as, allergies, likes, dislikes, interests, emergency contact details, etc.

When a child transfers to another setting or school, we have an extensive amount of information about the child, including one-planning and support plans, which will give the next setting a good idea of where the child is at and what needs to be implemented going forward. They are offered the child's Tapestry assessment which holds all the information about what the child has achieved, where they started and where they are now. It comprises of pictures, observations, focused activities and much more! With permission from parents/carers, their learning journals will be shared with the setting to which they are moving. Their 'Smart Bags' will be taken with them as these will have evolved throughout their journey at Little Smarties. This allows new members of staff working with these children to have a good sense of who they are, even before meeting them.

If a child attends more than one setting, then developmental records will be shared with their other settings too.

#### **11. How our setting organises its resources to meet the needs of young children with SEND.**

Little Smarties is always striving to offer the essential resources that SEND children may need. This means that resources are bought or made for the individual child as not all of the resources that we already own will be applicable for certain children. As we like to personalise for the child, this means that resources need to be changed and adapted all the time. We can also access resources through the Local Authority (on loan) for individual children's needs, (physical, sensory and cognitive).

#### **12. How we decide on appropriate support for young children with SEND.**

Deciding on appropriate support for the individual child is made with the Inclusion Officer who can help with any referrals that may need to be made. Before these referrals are made the child will be observed to make sure they are getting the right intervention to support them appropriately.

### **13. How we involve all parents/carers in our setting.**

We have an open-door policy. Parents/carers can speak to staff whenever they want if they have any concerns or just want a general conversation about their child's progress. Parents days/evenings are arranged to have set times to speak to their child's key person. Parents are also given a questionnaire twice a year and are encouraged to come into the nursery to spend time in their children's rooms.

### **14. Who to contact for further information.**

Coral Pithers is our SENCo and can be reached by email on

[littlemartiesnursery2018@gmail.com](mailto:littlemartiesnursery2018@gmail.com)

The contact number for the Nursery is 01277 841424

For the Local Offer website go to <http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/>

You are very welcome to contact us to make an appointment to look round the setting during the times of 07:00-18:00, Mon – Fri.