



## **Equal Opportunities**

### **9.2 Supporting children with special educational needs**

#### **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Equal Opportunities**

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care, including support for children with special educational needs or disabilities

#### **Policy statement**

We provide an environment in which all children, including those with special educational needs, are supported to reach their full potential.

- We have regard for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2014).
- We have in place a clear approach for identifying, responding to, and meeting children's SEN<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 SEN and their families.
- We regularly monitor and review our policy, practice and provision and, if necessary, make adjustments.

#### **Procedures**

- We designate a member of staff to be the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and give his/her name to parents.
- The SENCO works closely with our managers and other colleagues and has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of our Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs Policy and for co-ordinating provision for children with SEN.
- We ensure that the provision for children with special educational needs is the responsibility of all members of the setting.
- We ensure that our inclusive admissions practice ensures equality of access and opportunity.
- We provide a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum for all children.
- We apply SEN support to ensure early identification of children with SEN.
- We use the graduated approach system (assess, plan, do and review) applied in increasing detail and frequency to ensure that children progress.
- We work closely with parents of children with special educational needs to create and maintain a positive partnership.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes disabled children with special educational needs

- We ensure that parents are involved at all stages of the assessment, planning, provision and review of their children's special education including all decision making processes
- We provide parents with information on local sources of support and advice e.g. Local Offer, Information, Advice and Support Service.
- We, where appropriate, take into account children's views and wishes in decisions being made about them, relevant to their level understanding.
- We liaise and work with with other professionals and external agencies involved with children with special educational needs and their families, including transfer arrangements to other settings and schools.
- We have systems in place for referring children for further assessment e.g. Common Assessment Framework/Early Help Assessment and Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment.
- We have systems in place for supporting children during Wave 2, Wave 3, Statutory Assessment and the statementing process.
- We use a system of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing individual educational plans (IEPs) for children with special educational needs.
- We use a system for keeping records of the assessment, planning, provision and review for children with special educational needs.
- We provide resources (human and financial) to implement our Special Educational Needs Policy.
- We ensure that all our staff are aware of our Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs Policy and the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for children with SEN.
- We provide in-service training for parents, practitioners and volunteers.
- We raise awareness of our special education provision via our website.
- We ensure the effectiveness of our special educational needs provision by collecting information from a range of sources e.g. action plan reviews, staff and management meetings, parental and external agency's views, inspections and complaints. This information is collated, evaluated and reviewed annually.
- We provide a complaints procedure.
- We monitor and review our policy annually.

### **Further guidance**

- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (DfE 2017)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE & DoH 2014)

### **Legal framework**

- The Equality Act (2010)
- Children Act (1989) & (2004)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (2014)

**This policy was reviewed & updated on:** 15/10/20 **and adopted by:** Discovery Vine Ltd

**Date to be reviewed:** October 2021 (or earlier if necessary)

**Signed on behalf of Discovery Vine Ltd:** *Lynda Garbutt*

**Name of signatory:** Lynda Garbutt

**Role of signatory:** Managing Director