



SEND Local Offer at Townsend Barn Nursery

Local Offer for Children with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND)

How do we know if a child needs extra support?

At Townsend Barn Nursery we offer a holistic learning environment ensuring that all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage are met:

Unique Child + Positive Relationships + Enabling Environments = Learning and Development

The practitioners at Townsend Barn Nursery appreciate that each child is unique and consequently offers an enabling environment for the child to learn and develop in. We are aware that for children to thrive it is beneficial for the child to form positive relationships with nursery practitioners. We allocate each child a key person who will form a strong bond with both child and parents. Parents are encouraged to share their observations and inform the nursery practitioners of the child's interests and abilities whilst at home. The key person will also ensure that the child is reaching its developmental milestones by completing regular observations and relaying these to the parents by way of a learning journal. The next steps in the child's development are regularly assessed and these are used to inform our planning within the nursery. It is from these observations and from information received from parents that any need for extra support is ascertained.

When a child initially starts with us we provide settling in sessions where the key person familiarises themselves with the child's individual needs, interests and abilities. This is the initial opportunity for the parents to identify any needs with the key person so that these can be catered for. The parents and the key person complete an initial starting point of development form at the settling in session to identify any concerns.

How will the staff support the child?

If the key person or parent has any concerns with regards to a child's development the nursery Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator, (SENCO) will be advised. The SENCO, and Deputy SENCO have received local authority training to support the child, parent and key person ensuring that the child's individual needs are met.

The nursery has robust policies and procedures in place to ensure that the nursery is an inclusive environment regardless of disability, gender, culture or any educational needs.

The SENCO will work with the child's key worker to ensure that resources, experiences and activities are differentiated and accessible to all children with additional support available if necessary.

The SENCO and key person will formulate Individual



Education and Support Plans to ensure that the child's individual needs are met. The SENCO (with the parents consent) will liaise with other professionals such as Early Years Inclusion Officers, Speech and Language Therapists and Health Visitors to gain further advice in supporting each individual child. The SENCO and the key person will work collaboratively to ensure that these targets and strategies are implemented.

Any plan or strategy will be regularly assessed by the key person, parent and SENCO and updated as necessary to ensure that the child's development is continually moving forward.

How are parents / carers included in the child's education and curriculum?

Forming strong bonds and relationships with parents/carers is a very important part of our practice at Townsend Barn Nursery. We know that parents/carers know their children best and our work with the children reflects this.

At the child's first session with us we gather as much information as we can about the child's family, likes, dislikes and ensure that there is a robust care plan in place. Our door is always open for any parent/carer to voice their concerns regarding their child's development and any aspect of their well being.

A learning journey is kept of the child's development and progress whilst at nursery and we welcome any information that parents/carers can give us with regards to their child's changing interests and routines so that we are always up to date with what is happening in the child's life. We encourage parents to bring in 'Wow' moments from home which are shared with the children's friends so that everyone is part of the each child's development.

How accessible are the environments?

Townsend Barn Nursery has three rooms:

- Caterpillars 0-2 years
- Butterflies 2-3 years
- Barn Owls 3-4 years

Each room is tailored to meet the requirements of the children's age within that room. The manager, SENCO and key person will be able to discuss how the room's facilities can be adapted, if necessary and incorporate these changes. This will ensure that all resources and activities are available for all the children in our care.

We also have an outdoor learning and play area along with access to a woodland garden and tennis court which gives the children lots of outside space in which to develop physically and explore.



If more than one language is spoken in the home environment we will encourage both parents and children to share words from their home language with both the child's key person and all the practitioners within the nursery to help the child feel settled within the nursery.



Helping with transitions

At Townsend Barn Nursery we ensure that all transitions are well planned and supported.

When the child first starts we offer a free settling-in session and can offer additional paid sessions if required. The child's key person will work with parents to ensure that the child is well settled.

When the time comes to move to another room within the nursery the child will have a number of settling in sessions to ensure that transition goes smoothly and that the child adapts to the new surroundings and peers. The new and old key persons will work closely to make sure that all relevant information is shared and that an updated 'All About Me' form is completed to reflect the child's changing personality and needs.

When it is time to start School Townsend Barn Nursery is fortunate to have links with many of the schools in the vicinity. This enables an effective transition to take place. As well as completing and relaying all relevant paperwork to the School we invite the child's new teacher to visit the setting to meet the child and chat to his key person.

If you require any further information or to make an appointment please do not hesitate to contact our Nursery Manager, Sarah Wheeler.