



Robin Hill Nursery

Our SEN and Disability offer

How does the nursery know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child has special educational needs?

The staff at Robin Hill are trained and highly skilled to identify any delays in a child's development. They are able to quickly identify any cause for concern through our ongoing assessments and strong partnerships with parents. When a cause for concern does arise, the staff will discuss these with the setting's SENCO who will look at how we can support the child and the family. Together with the family, we put together a support plan which details how we are planning on supporting the child's development. Referrals to other agencies may take place. We build strong relationships with our parents which makes it much easier for them to discuss any concerns they may have. We hold regular parents evenings and social gatherings where parents are able to discuss concerns regarding their child's development with their child's key person.

How will the nursery support my child with special educational needs?

We have Individual Needs Assistants working in our setting on a one to one basis with children with disabilities. They are both highly experienced and can give support and guidance to you throughout your time here, they work closely with the Early Years Team. If your child is not in need of one to one support, our SENCO will oversee and lead the support plan, working with the child on a one to one or small group basis to support their development. The support plan sets a date for review, we try to do this every term. If the child is showing little progress then the SENCO will shorten the review period and heighten the level of support that we offer you. Throughout your child's time at Robin Hill; he/she will be allocated a Key Person, who will work closely with the whole family and offer their support and guidance. Your child chooses their own Key Person on their first settling in session, if your child cannot speak, we look at their body language and assess who will be best suited to be their Key Person. Your child's key person will observe, plan and assess their development throughout their time here.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

By using our ongoing assessment system, we are able to assess each child's individual needs. We work closely with our families to ensure that each child's needs are met fully and sometimes this will mean contacting outside agencies for extra support. For example, the Early Years Team may be able to provide us with additional seating, toys and equipment for your child. Additional funding may also be available to you which could be used to provide your child with one to one care at the nursery.

How will the nursery review my child's progress and how shall they share it with me?

We use a secure online learning journey called 'Tapestry' which is accessible to all parents/carers at all times as it is easily downloadable on to tablets and smart phones. Families are able to keep an eye on their child's progress throughout their time at the nursery. If a child has an Individual Support Plan, we meet with the child's parents each term to review the plan and create next steps.

What support will there be for my child's overall well being?

At Robin Hill, the management team use the 'Involvement and Well Being' tracking scale to observe the children in our setting. We have created an action plan that we use if we consistently observe a child with low levels of either. The support plan is developed with the help of the child's Key Person, the Manager and the whole family.

When developing your child's support plan, if it's appropriate, we ask for their views on how they would like to be supported in the setting. We have a behaviour management policy and some members of staff have access the behaviour management training. We encourage and strive for positive outcomes and so we make use of sticker charts, sand timers, visual clues and praise. The children receive 'Little Stars' which are celebrated within the classrooms, parents can also fill these out with achievements from home.

What training do the staff have in supporting children with special educational needs or disabilities?

Our SENCO has completed the relevant training for this. The SENCO works closely with the staff team to give them guidance in this area. Our support plans are put together for individual children with support from the SENCO, the child's family, their key person and sometimes with guidance from the Early Years Service. We have two Individual Needs Assistants who have

gained years of experience working with children with disabilities at Robin Hill Nursery and formed strong relationships with the Early Years Services.

What specialist services and support are available to the nursery?

We work closely with the Early Years Service, the Inclusion and SEN and disability support service (ISEND) team and health visitors.

How will my child be included in activities outside the nursery, including trips?

We risk assess all areas of our environment and prior to taking the children on outings; we look at how each child's needs will be met throughout the trip and will adapt what we do in order to suit each individual child. We are keen to have parent helpers wherever possible, including within the setting. We also ensure that we have extra members of qualified staff to assist on outings. All trips are relevant to the children's interests and level of development.

How accessible is the nursery?

We have in the past, catered for children who use a wheelchair; the setting is assessed prior to children with disabilities starting to ensure that the environment is suitable. We use visual timetables, lead Polish and French lessons and promote the languages of our families throughout the setting. We previously had a handful of children whose first language was Polish and our Polish Key Person worked closely with them as a bilingual assistant; she also assisted parents in communicating with other members of staff. We also offer help and support for these parents in particular, when applying for school places.

How will the nursery help my child move on to school?

During the term before children are due to go to school, we set up the role play area to incorporate recognisable school uniforms, we ask teachers to come in and lead activities, we also give each family a 'transition to school' leaflet, showing pictures of each area in their new school. We work closely with the school to gain a deeper understanding of how they teach, for example, we ask how they teach writing and reading skills and we begin to incorporate these in to our learning to further prepare them for their next step. A final assessment is completed by your child's key person with the help from any agencies that are involved with your family and yourself, this is then sent to your child's school.

We also arrange visits from teachers and will take the children to the schools to meet their teachers if they are unable to come to the setting.

Children moving on to school who have had one to one support from an Individual Needs Assistant will be supported by the early years services who we will be in contact with throughout the transition progress to make it as smooth as possible for the child.

Give us your views about this information

Contact localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk

Date issued: 30/10/2017

Review due (one year): 30/10/2018