**Special Needs Policy**

Definition of Special Education Needs (SEN)

“Children have a Special Educational Need if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.”

- as defined by the SEN Code of Practice 2014 for those who have Special Educational Needs and disabled children.

This policy is in line with the SEN Code of Practice 2014, the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), the Equality Act 2010 and also reflects our Local Offer. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) is .

The Manager and her team have overall responsibility for the day to day management of all aspects of the pre-school including the provision for children with special educational needs.

* We will ensure that all children have the same entitlement to a broad based curriculum, irrespective of their special educational needs.
* The EYFS will be used for planning to ensure the specific needs of the children are met. If a child appears to have a delay in a particular area of learning and development, this will be referred to the SENCo team for further observations. The SENCo will then arrange to meet with the parents or carers and plan next steps for an individual support plan.
* We will provide appropriate opportunities and a suitable environment for the development of every child’s self-esteem and encourage full integration into the setting
* Staff will be encouraged to establish relationships with other local nurseries and pre-schools to share expertise and training to help aid further support for SEN children.
* In conjunction with parents, our observations and record-keeping will enable us to monitor children’s needs and progress on an individual basis. If it is felt that a child’s needs cannot be met by the pre-school without the support of a one-to-one helper, funding will be sought to provide this support.
* When the child has been identified and before their name is placed on our Monitoring List, there will be full and on-going discussions with parents. Other professional agencies concerned with the child will be consulted as appropriate. The S.E.N Co-ordinator is responsible for managing this process.
* We will evaluate the success of the SEN Policy by monitoring the progress of children with SEN.

**Local Offer**

From September 2014 every Local Authority was required to publish information about services in their area for children and young people from birth to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); and also services outside of the area which children from their area may use. This is known as the “Local Offer”.

The Local Offer will put all the information about education, health and care services, voluntary agencies, leisure activities and support groups in one place.

It has two main purposes:

* To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available
* To make provision more responsive to local needs

The Government says that the Local Offer must be developed and reviewed in partnership with children and young people, parents / carers and local services, including early years’ settings, schools, colleges, health and social care agencies.

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Reading has worked in partnership with other Local Authorities in the Oxfordshire area to deliver a Local Offer which will be consistent, as far as possible, and which will allow for information sharing across Local Authority boundaries where this is appropriate.

The Children and Families Act (2014) introduces many changes to the special educational needs (SEN) system:

* a new single plan to replace the statement of special educational needs that will include Education, Health and Social Care
* school action and school action plus to be replaced by a new school based category, 'Additional SEN support'
* a local offer for parents
* a new SEN Code of Practice
* personal budgets for those with a single plan
* mediation for parents going to Tribunal
* Individual Action Plans to cease

Oxfordshire’s most recent Local Offer Report is attached at the back of this policy but can also be found on their Website. There is also a wealth of information and support services on their website. Oxfordshire’s Family Information Directory is also able to offer support services. Our SEN-Co will be more than happy to advise and support our families to access these if they wish.

Our SEN-Co and other members of staff are also aware as part of our Safeguarding training that children with special educational needs are more vulnerable to abuse. We will ensure we follow our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure to ensure the safety of all our children, including those with special educational needs.

This policy was adopted by Kingfisher Kindergarten Ltd

On 22nd January 2019

Date to be reviewed Annually

Signed on behalf of the provider La-Ryne Baker

Role of signatory Owner