

1.6 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Statement of Intent

Giant Leap Childcare is committed to the inclusion of all children. All children have the right to be cared for and educated to develop to their full potential alongside each other through positive experiences, to enable them to share opportunities and experiences and develop and learn from each other. We provide a positive and welcoming environment where children are supported according to their individual needs.

The nursery believes that all children have a right to experience and develop alongside their peers no matter what their individual needs. Each child's needs are unique, therefore any attempt to categorise children is inappropriate. All children will be given a full settling in period when joining the nursery according to their individual needs.

The nursery is committed to working alongside parents in the provision for their child's individual needs to enable us to help the child to develop to their full potential. The nursery is committed to working with any child who has a specific need and/or disability and making reasonable adjustments to enable every child to make full use of the nursery's facilities. All children have a right to a broad and well-balanced early learning environment.

The nursery will undertake a Progress Check of all children at age two in accordance with the Code of Practice. The early years provider will also undertake an assessment at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (in the final term of the year in which a child turns five) to prepare an EYFS Profile of the child.

Where we believe a child may have additional needs that have previously been unacknowledged, we will work closely with the child's parents and any relevant professionals to establish if any additional action is required.

We feel it is paramount to find out as much as possible about a particular child's condition and the way that may affect his/her early learning or care needs by:

- Liaising with the child's parents
- Liaising with any professional agencies
- Reading any reports that have been prepared
- Attending any review meetings with the local authority/professionals
- Regularly monitoring observations carried out on the child's development.

Named SENCO

Our named person for Special Education Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO) is **Dani Poole**.

They work closely with all staff to make sure there are systems in place to plan, implement, monitor, review and evaluate the special educational needs policy of the nursery, always making sure plans and records are shared with parents.

This policy has been created with regard to:

- The SEND Code of Practice 2015
- Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3)
- Equality Act 2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Keeping Schools Safe in Education (2026)
- EYFS

Aims

We will:

- Recognise each child's individual needs and ensure all staff are aware of, and have regard for, the Special Educational Needs & Disability Code of Practice (England) on identification and assessment of any needs not being met by the universal service provided by the nursery
- Include all children and their families in our provision
- Provide well informed and suitably trained practitioners to help support parents and children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Develop and maintain a core team of staff who are experienced in the care of children with additional needs and employ a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO) who is experienced in the care and assessment of children with additional needs. Staff will be provided with specific training relating to Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and the SEN Code of Practice
- Identify the specific needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and meet those needs through a range of strategies
- Ensure that children who learn quicker, e.g. gifted and talented children are also supported
- Work in partnership with parents and other agencies in order to meet individual children's needs, including the health and education authorities, and seek advice, support and training where required

- Monitor and review our practice and provision and, if necessary, make adjustments, and seek specialist equipment and services if needed
- Ensure that all children are treated as equals and are encouraged to take part in every aspect of the nursery day according to their individual needs and abilities
- Promote positive images and role models during play experiences of those with additional needs wherever possible
- Celebrate diversity in all aspects of play and learning.

Methods

We will:

- Designate a member of staff to be Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDSCO), and share their names with parents
- Provide information, showing how we provide for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and share this with staff, parents and other professionals
- Ensure that the provision for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is the responsibility of all members of staff in the nursery
- Ensure that our inclusive admissions practice includes equality of access and opportunity
- Ensure that our physical environment is as far as possible suitable for children and adults with disabilities
- Work closely with parents to create and maintain a positive partnership which supports their child(ren)
- Ensure that parents are informed at all stages of the assessment, planning, provision and review of their child's education
- Provide parents with information on sources of independent advice and support
- Liaise with other professionals involved with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and their families, including transfer arrangements to other settings and schools. We work closely with the next care setting and meet with them to discuss the child's needs to ensure information exchange and continuity of care
- Provide a broad and balanced early learning environment for all children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Provide differentiated activities to meet all individual needs and abilities
- Use a system of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing Individual Targeted Learning Plans (TLP's) for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Review TLP's regularly and hold review meetings with parents at this time
- Use a system for keeping records of the assessment, planning, provision and review for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Provide resources (human and financial) to implement our SEN/disability policy

- Ensure the privacy of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities when intimate care is being provided
- Use a Early Help Assessment (EHA) where required, holding regular TAF (Team Around the Family) meetings.
- Provide in-service training for practitioners and volunteers
- Raise awareness of any specialism the setting has to offer, e.g. Makaton trained staff
- Ensure the effectiveness of our SEN/disability provision by collecting information from a range of sources e.g. TLP reviews, staff and management meetings, parental and external agencies' views, inspections and complaints. This information is collated, evaluated and reviewed annually
- Create individual folders for children requiring additional support, keeping information confidential and sharing where required.
- Provide a complaints procedure and make available to all parents in a format that meets their needs e.g. Braille, audio, large print, additional languages
- Monitor and review our policy annually.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice

It is the duty of the nursery to carry out in the statutory guidance set in the Code of Practice (DfE 2015) to identify, assess and make provision for children's special educational needs. The Code of Practice recommends that our nursery should adopt a graduated approach to assessment. Good practice of working together with parents, and the observation and monitoring of children's individual progress, will help identify any child with special educational needs. Our nursery has identified a member of staff as a SENCO who will work alongside parents to assess the child's strengths and plan for future support. The SENCO will ensure that appropriate records are kept according to the Code of Practice.

Graduated Approach to Special Educational Needs Support

The child is identified with special educational needs. The SENDCO, working alongside colleagues and parents, will assess and record the child's needs and provide a Targeted Learning Plan providing future support. This plan will be continually under review in consultation with the child and his/her parent(s). Children are only identified as having special educational needs if they do not make adequate progress once they have had all the intervention/adjustments and good quality personalised early years practice.

This is characterised by the involvement of external support services, usually requested by the SENDCO and colleagues in consultation with the child's parents. If the help given through the Graduated Approach is not sufficient to enable the child to progress satisfactorily, it may be necessary for the nursery, in consultation with the parents and any external agencies already involved, to request a statutory assessment towards an Education Health and Care Plan.

Effective assessment of the need for early help

Local agencies should work together to put processes in place for the effective assessment of the needs of individual children who may benefit from early help services. Children and families may need support from a wide range of local agencies. Where a child and family would benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency (e.g. education, health, housing, police) there should be an inter-agency assessment. These early help assessments, should identify what help the child and family require to prevent needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989.

The early help assessment should be undertaken by a lead professional who should provide support to the child and family, act as an advocate on their behalf and coordinate the delivery of support services. The lead professional role could be undertaken by a General Practitioner (GP), family support worker, teacher, health visitor and/or special educational needs coordinator. Decisions about who should be the lead professional should be taken on a case by case basis and should be informed by the child and their family.

For an early help assessment to be effective:

- The assessment should be undertaken with the agreement of the child and their parents or carers. It should involve the child and family as well as all the professionals who are working with them;
- A teacher, GP, health visitor, early years' worker or other professional should be able to discuss concerns they may have about a child and family with a social worker in the local authority. Local authority children's social care should set out the process for how this will happen; and
- If parents and/or the child do not consent to an early help assessment, then the lead professional should make a judgement as to whether, without help, the needs of the child will escalate. If so, a referral into local authority children's social care may be necessary.

If at any time it is considered that the child may be a child in need as defined in the Children Act 1989, or that the child has suffered significant harm, or is likely to do so, a referral should be made immediately to local authority children's social care. This referral can be made by any professional. *Working together to safeguard children 2018*

Graduated Approach

We follow the SEND Code of Practice (2015) recommendation that, in addition to the formal checks above, nurseries should adopt a graduated approach to assessment and planning,

led and coordinated by a SENDCO. Good practice of working together with parents, and the observation and monitoring of children's individual progress, will help identify any child with special educational needs or disability. This graduated approach will be led and coordinated by the SENDCO and appropriate records will be kept according to the Code of Practice.

Assess

In identifying a child as needing SEN support, the key person, working with the SENDCO and the child's parents, will carry out an analysis of the child's needs. This initial assessment will be reviewed regularly to ensure that support is matched to need. Where there is little or no improvement in the child's progress, more specialist assessment may be called for from specialist teachers or from health, social services or other agencies beyond the setting. Where professionals are not already working with the setting, the SENDCO will contact them, with the parents' agreement.

Plan

Where it is decided to provide SEN support, and having formally notified the parents, the key person and the SENDCO, in consultation with the parent, will agree the outcomes they are seeking, the interventions and support to be put in place, the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, and a clear date for review. Plans will take into account the views of the child.

The support and intervention provided will be selected to meet the outcomes identified for the child, based on reliable evidence of effectiveness, and provided by practitioners with relevant skills and knowledge. Any related staff development needs should be identified and addressed. Parents will be involved in planning support and, where appropriate, in reinforcing the provision or contributing to progress at home.

Do

The child's key person will be responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. With support from the SENDCO, they will oversee the implementation of the intervention agreed as part of SEN support. The SENDCO will support the key person in assessing the child's response to the action taken, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

Review

The effectiveness of the support and its impact on the child's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date. The impact and quality of the support will be evaluated by the key person and the SENDCO in full consultation with the child's parents and taking into account

the child's views. Information will be shared with parents about the impact of the support provided.

Assess - The key person works with the setting SENDCO and the child's parents and brings together all the information, then analyses the child's needs.

Plan - The key person and the SENDCO will agree, in consultation with the parent, the outcomes they are seeking for the child, the interventions and support to be put in place, the expected impact on progress, development and behaviour and finally a date for review.

Do - The child's key person implements the agreed interventions or programmes

Review - On the agreed date, the key person and SENDCO working with the child's parents, and taking into account the child's views, will review the effectiveness of the support and the impact of the support on the child's progress. They will then evaluate the impact and quality of support on the child.

Education and Health Plan (EHC)

Some children and young people may require an EHC needs assessment in order to decide whether it is necessary to develop an EHC plan. The purpose of an EHC plan is to make adjustments and offer support to meet the special educational needs of the child, to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care.

The local authority will conduct the EHC needs assessment and take into account a wide range of evidence, including

- evidence of the child's developmental milestones and rate of progress
- information about the nature, extent and context of the child's SEN
- evidence of the action already being taken by us as the early years provider to meet the child's SEND need
- evidence that, where progress has been made, it has only been as the result of much additional intervention and support over and above that which is usually provided
- evidence of the child's physical, emotional and social development and health needs, drawing on relevant evidence from clinicians and other health professionals and what has been done to meet these by other agencies.

We will then work with the local authority and other bodies to ensure that the child receives the support they need to gain the best outcomes.

Concerns

Parents/carers with any concerns should inform their child key person who will pass on any information to the nursery SENDCO or alternatively parents/carers may speak directly to the nursery SENDCO with prior appointment.

Staff training

During induction all staff are informed of the nursery SENDCO and their role and responsibility. Key staff are involved in creating children's individual Targeted Learning Plans, training is provided by the Nursery SENDCO. It is the nursery SENDCO'S role to keep up to date with all Special Educational Needs & Disabilities policies, procedures and relevant legislation through regular meetings and training.

Reviewed: 07/04/2026	Name: Dani Poole	Signed: DPoole
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