**SEND Policy 2020**

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

**Introduction**

Crèche is committed to the inclusion of all children. We provide a positive and welcoming environment where children are supported according to their individual needs.

Crèche workers are committed to work alongside parents in the provision for their child’s individual needs to enable us to help the child develop to their full potential. All children have a right to a broad and well-balanced early learning environment. Crèche workers will work with any child who has a special need and/or disability and make reasonable adjustments to enable every child to make full use of the crèche facilities.

The SEND Code of Practice (2014) offers the following guidance on identifying what SEND is:

5.27: Early years practitioners working with children should monitor and review the progress and development of all children throughout the early years.

5.28: Where a child appears to be behind expected levels, or where a child’s progress gives cause for concern, practitioners should consider all the information about the child’s learning and development from within and beyond the setting, from formal checks, from practitioner observations and from any detailed assessment of the child’s needs. From within the setting practitioners should particularly consider information on a child’s progress in communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Where any specialist advice has been sought from beyond the setting, this should also inform decisions about whether or not a child has SEN. All the information should be brought together with the observations of parents and considered with them.

5.30: Identifying and assessing SEN for young children whose first language is not English requires particular care. Early years practitioners should look carefully at all aspects of a child’s learning and development to establish whether any delay is related to learning English as an additional language or if it arises from SEN or disability. Difficulties related solely to learning English as an additional language are not SEN.

**How the crèche will identify SEND**

* Through notification by a parent that the child has significant needs/disability and that other agencies are involved with the child via the registration process or pre-crèche home visit. If a child is identified via this route an inclusion meeting will be held to ensure the correct provision is in place for when crèche starts.
* Crèche workers identifying an additional need by discussing a child with the parent/s during the registration process.
* Crèche workers identifying an additional need through observing the child in the crèche environment.
* Crèche workers sharing information with parent/s as part of the provision’s usual procedures for information sharing.

We believe that parent/s should be involved right from the start of any process whereby a child may be identified as SEND. The crèche workers will meet with parent/s to share any concerns raised and to gain the parental view as the very first step.

The crèche workers will meet with team manager and course facilitator so that

* Any necessary arrangements to meet the child’s needs can be made
* Paperwork or referrals as believed necessary can be made
* Clear and consistent communication is shared

**Inclusion**

Crèche workers recognise that inclusion means that every child has the right to participate as fully as possible: in order to do this the onus is on the crèche workers and support team to change, if necessary.

* Crèche is an inclusive environment for all children
* No child will suffer discrimination
* Crèche workers will be clear about what can be provided and what cannot
* Crèche workers will ensure that parents have a clear understanding of what the provision is able to offer, therefore, allowing them to make the choices necessary to ensure their child’s needs are met

All areas of learning are considered important. All children will have access and be included in activities with additional steps taken to facilitate their learning and ensuring their safety and wellbeing. This may include:-

* The provision of additional staff to support the child throughout the session
* Ensuring the needs of all children are recognised when conducting the site visits and completing risk assessments

**Admission of children with special educational needs and/or disability**

All children of appropriate age are considered for a place within crèche; this includes children with recognised special educational needs and/or disability. It is fundamental that:

* Children with special educational needs and/or disability should have their needs met
* Children with special educational needs and/or disability should be offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum

In some cases it may be necessary for the parents, crèche workers and management team to discuss with outside agencies how this can be achieved prior to the child starting crèche; in this case an inclusion meeting will be held. In some circumstances it may be agreed that crèche is not suitable for the child.

**Facilities for children with special educational needs and/or disability**

It is the responsibility of the crèche workers to ensure the environment and the resources are accessible to all children. This responsibility is delivered on a session to session basis. To ensure inclusion it is necessary to:

* Evaluate the resources and make sure they are accessible to any child with a physical disability
* Consider the physical layout of the room, adapting if necessary to ensure access to resources and equipment
* Provide calm areas for children as necessary

In some circumstances it may not be beneficial for the child to attend the crèche sessions; this could be for a variety of reasons. If this is the case the crèche workers will support the family to make more appropriate arrangements.

**SEND Local Offer**

The SEND Local Offer helps children, young people and parents to understand what services and support they can expect from a range of local agencies – including their statutory entitlements. Crèche workers are committed to working within the Local Offer in Tameside and follow the SEND pathway guidelines.

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