

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Bright Beginnings Support Offer

Children have a right to provision which enables them to develop their personalities, talents and abilities irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disability or gender. (EYFS 2012)

At Bright Beginnings Childcare Centre we are committed to inclusion and we respect individual differences. Our practitioners are **alert** to emerging difficulties and will **respond** early following a graduated approach.

Bright Beginnings answers some frequently asked questions....

What do I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

Firstly, you can discuss your concerns with your child's key person. They will talk to you about your child's progress following the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). If appropriate they will seek further advice from the centre's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) who is experienced in the care and assessment of children with additional needs. Where necessary we can sign-post to other professionals. Bright Beginnings will support and work in partnership with you as parents.

How will Bright Beginnings support my child's learning and development?

Our SENCO will oversee and plan any necessary educational programmes with your child's key person. Your child's key person will work closely with all practitioners involved in your child's care to ensure that there are systems in place to observe, plan, implement, monitor and review your child's needs (a graduated response). We will share your child's care plan and records with you.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Bright Beginnings provides a broad and balanced early learning environment for all children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Differentiated activities are provided to meet all individual needs and abilities. Targets are set regularly and review meetings are held with parents and carers so that we can effectively measure our arrangements for children with SEN and disabilities. Resources both human and financial will be implemented in accordance with our SEND policy.

How accessible is Bright Beginnings?

Bright Beginnings has a SCOPE award as an inclusive setting.

Bright Beginnings has full disabled access, toilets and shower facilities. The play areas with mezzanines are accessible for inclusive play. There is a lift to all levels of the building.

An induction loop system is fitted to a number of areas in the Centre.

Bright Beginnings has a sensory room called Sanctuary, which is accessed by all children in small groups offering different sensory experiences including a bubble tube and light projectors.

How will I know how well my child is doing and how will we work together to support my child's learning?

In addition to daily feed-back parents and carers are given opportunities both formal and informal to discuss their children's progress. The Centre uses an online profiling system called Capture which parents can access daily. This encourages partnerships working as parents can contribute to their child's learning and see how their child is developing and progressing whilst in the Centre. Parents and Carers are sign posted to any relevant training that may be of benefit to them to support their child's learning.

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What support will there be for my child's overall well-being, social and emotional and behavioural development?

At Bright Beginnings we want our children to prosper socially and emotionally within a warm and friendly environment, where adults make them feel secure, appreciated and respected, and in which they can try out various ways of acting and interacting, without fear of humiliation, blame or neglect.

Bright Beginnings advocates the outdoors whatever the weather providing all weather clothing for children to access the outdoors. Bright Beginnings works closely with the School of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Leeds to ensure we provide a well-balanced, healthy nutritious pescatarian diet. A healthy diet with access to Outdoor play supports the holistic development of the individual child.

What specialist services and expertise are available or accessed by Bright Beginnings?

Practitioners will work closely with the child's family and will of course be alert to emerging challenges and respond quickly to access new services dependant on the individual needs of the child.

Bright Beginnings has forged positive relationships with The Leeds Inclusion support team the local health centre and have contact with speech and language therapists. Bright Beginnings have accessed services at specialist level through the STARS team who develop practice with autism spectrum conditions.

What training and development is undertaken by staff supporting those with SEND?

Some practitioners at Bright Beginnings have specialist training and awareness to support children with SEN and disabilities.

- "Make sense of autism" delivered by the Autism Education Trust Early Years Programme.
- Tier One Visual Communication training.
- Basic British Sign Language and Makaton

Further training will always be sought to support individual needs and complex medical conditions where appropriate. The SENCO at Bright Beginnings attends local quarterly meetings on SEND and Inclusion to keep well-informed of any key changes in policies and practice both locally and nationally.

How will my child be included in activities outside Bright Beginnings?

Bright Beginnings believes that all children have a right to experience and develop alongside their peers. Each child's needs are unique, any trips or outings will be appropriately risk assessed involving parents and carers from the onset. Adult to child ratios will meet the individual needs of the child.

How will Bright Beginnings help children transfer to the next phase of education?

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All children at Bright Beginnings are supported in their transition from one age range to another in accordance to the Bright Beginnings induction and transition policies and procedures. Practitioners work in partnership with parents to consider all the child's needs. When a child is ready to leave Bright Beginnings for school, a summative report is written and the school teacher is invited into the setting. Bright Beginnings works closely with the next care setting and meets with them to discuss the child's needs, ensure information exchange and continuity of care.

How are Bright Beginnings resources/funding allocated and matched to children's needs?

When a child has been identified as having SEN and disabilities, Bright Beginnings will work collaboratively with the other professionals involved in the child's care. This is to ensure that all possible resources, both financial and human, are made available for the child regardless of funding pathways. Parents and carers are always kept informed and are involved in how the funding will be used.

Who can I contact for further information?

To apply for a place at Bright Beginnings contact the centre on 0113 3431818 or email us at brightbeginnings@leeds.ac.uk

The Centre SENCO is called Lenka Melova

Further information about other support services, health services, play and leisure please look on the Leeds City Council website www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk

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