



# Little Tinkers

## Our SEN and Disability offer

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### **How do we know if children need extra help and what should you do if you think your child has special educational needs?**

At Little Tinkers, all children are allocated a Key Person who observes and supports the child throughout the year. During play and activities, regular observations are completed and these can be in various formats such as photos, detailed and short observations. These observations then help the key person to track the child's development alongside the age related milestones based on the EYFS Development Matters. The key person completes assessments on every child to identify any support that may be required. At a glance it is easy to see if a child needs extra support in their early years development. These assessments are shared with the parents who are encouraged to add their comments.

If you think your child may have Special Educational needs then you should speak to your child's key person. A look through their Learning Journey (a record of the observations and tracking) may help inform you whether your child may be falling behind in certain areas of development.

### **How will we support a child with special educational needs?**

Supporting children will depend on their level of need. For example, if your child has not reached the age related milestones for Speaking then activities and games to help your child reach this milestone would be introduced. We would also support parents in suggesting activities at home to help your child with their speech. If there was little progress after implementing activities, then with your agreement we would consider a referral to the speech and language team.

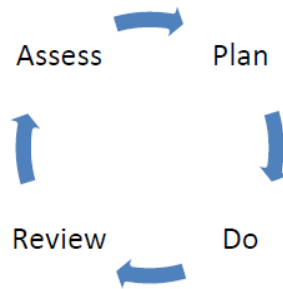
Our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator) has been trained through the local authority to support the key person, child and families to ensure that the child's individual needs are met.

We have procedures in place, which are reviewed regularly, ensuring that our resources and environments are suitable and accessible for all.

Our SENCO will liaise with other professionals (with the parent's consent)

such as Early Years Inclusion Officers, Speech and Language Therapists and Health Visitors to gain further advice in supporting each individual child. The SENCO and the key person will work collaboratively to ensure that these targets and strategies are implemented.

The plans and activities will be reviewed by the key person and the parents regularly to update plans and provide support for all children.



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

Through regular assessment and discussions with all members of staff involved in the care of your child, we will have a clear picture of how much support each child needs. We aim to support each child at an appropriate level to help them learn at their own pace, in their own way and to be independent learners.

Each child is treated as an individual, so provision is personalised so that all children receive the appropriate level of support to help them achieve to the best of their ability.

If we feel that a child needs extra support, then we can, if necessary, involve the Early Years Service and apply for additional funds.

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/send-education/sen/funding/early-years/>

### **How will we review your child's progress and how will we share it with you?**

As your child's key person is interacting with your child regularly, they are aware of how much progress being made on an almost daily basis. At the end of each day, there is an opportunity for you to speak with the key person or one of the other adults who will report on any special moments or key events that have happened during the day. This is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions or share anything you think we need to know- this can be anything from a family birthday or visit to something which may have upset your child such as the death of a pet. All of these could have some kind of impact on your child's day.

We also hold regular drop in sessions where parents and carers are invited to come and have a chat after hours. If you can't make one of these, don't worry. You are free to look at your child's learning journey whenever suits you. If your child has SEN, then we will work with outside agencies to support your child. You will also be sent any correspondence that we receive from them.

### **How are parents involved in the setting and how can you be involved?**

We would like you as parents/carers to feel part of your child's development. We welcome volunteers to come in and help. We ask if any parents or grandparents have any skills that they could bring in to show the children, the children love this.

### **What support will there be for your child's overall well being?**

We are happy to administer medicines for long term medical conditions. Please see our medicines policy (policies page). We practise positive behaviour management in line with local authority recommendations. Throughout the day, children are encouraged to lead their learning and staff are receptive to their views and suggestions. Within this, children also learn to respect each other's values and ideas.

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

We take our lead from professionals who will run relevant courses or come into the setting to support both staff and children.

### **What specialist services and support are available to the pre-school/nursery?**

Each member of staff has a wealth of personal experience and training is always available in specific areas of need to further develop the skills they already have. We can also call on many agencies such as Early Years Teaching and Support Services, East Sussex County Council Web site for SEND. We also have access to local authority health visitors, speech and language specialists and educational psychologists.

Click on the link below for further information.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/send-education/sen/services-supporting-schools>

## **How will your child be included in activities outside the pre-school/ nursery, including trips?**

Any activities outside of Preschool will be planned with all abilities taken into account. Trips and external activities will have a full risk assessment and arrangements put in place to ensure all children can be included. This would include extra staff and parental involvement as volunteers.

## **How accessible is the pre-school/ nursery?**

There is currently ramp access to the main building and both buildings have access to disabled toilets. Children whose first language is not English have an information pack in the learning journal for the staff to access so they are aware of ways to support EAL children. The rooms also have visual labels to support children.

## **How will the pre-school/nursery help your child move on to school?**

When your child is ready to move on to Primary school we can talk to you about deciding which schools are available and will often have leaflets and flyers from local schools giving information about open days.

In the last term we will play games and read books relating to change and new experiences to help answer any questions the children may have. We put the children at ease by talking about their experiences and what to expect.

As children move from the toddler room to the pre-school classroom, they are invited to join in with sessions so they can spend time in the new classroom so it is familiar when they start in September. This involves singing, reading stories and exploring the outside area.

Summarise the arrangements you have in place (e.g. partnership with schools) and any additional arrangements that could be made for children with SEN.

## **Give us your views about this information**

Contact [localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk) or call Information for Families 0345 60 80 192

## **More information, advice and support**

The local offer- what is available for children and young people with special educational needs in East Sussex

- [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer)

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