



Special Educational Needs Policy

Introduction:

A child is considered to have a special educational need if they have significant learning difficulties in comparison to their peers. Carnlough Community Nursery values each child as an individual and aims to provide a fully integrated environment to enable each individual child to access the curriculum and reach their fullest potential.

Aim:

The nursery will strive to ensure that children with special educational needs will have the same access to play and learning as other children.

Procedures:

Staff in the nursery will identify children with special educational needs as early as possible and make suitable provision for their needs to the best of their ability and in accordance to the Northern Ireland Code of Practice.

- ⇒ Nursery staff will adopt the five stage approach recommended in the Code of Practice, beginning at the stage appropriate to the child's needs.
- ⇒ For initial concerns, a Record of Concern will be completed, and will be shared with the child's parent/guardian.
- ⇒ Should the concerns remain, a Stage One action plan will be completed.
- ⇒ An Individual Educational Plan will be completed for any child on Stage Two or above. An IEP is a working document for all nursery staff. It provides planning for the individual child with SEN. It will be accessible and understandable to all concerned.
- ⇒ Plans will be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis.
- ⇒ Parents/Guardians will be consulted, supported and kept fully informed throughout the various stages of planning, reviewing and evaluating.
- ⇒ All information and IEP's on each individual child will be kept strictly confidential within the nursery, and will only be shared with those concerned.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator:

The nursery staff will be supported by Mrs Anne-Marie McHugh, who is the SENCo in the adjoining Primary School. The SENCo will liaise with health visitors, social workers, speech therapists, GP's as the need arises.

The Special Educational Needs policy for Carnlough Community Nursery will be reviewed on an annual basis.