



Special Needs Policy

Rationale

Clarendon Children's Centre is committed to helping all children develop to their full potential and providing high quality support for children and adults with special needs. At Clarendon Children's Centre we promote the integration of all children with special needs and believe it is a positive experience to be able to share the same opportunities and overcome any difficulties together.

Clarendon Children's Centre has written this policy to ensure that best practice and procedures are carried out at the Centre. This policy complies with the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework.

Definition

A child has a special educational need if he/she has a learning difficulty or disability that makes it harder for them to learn or access educational provision than most children of the same age.

A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. (Section 1(1) Disability Discrimination Act 1995)

Aims

- 1. To recognize any special needs a child may have and ensure all staff are aware of the Code of Practice on identification and assessment of special needs.*
- 2. To make a thorough assessment of each individual's specific needs and adapt the services and support they are given to meet their needs.*
- 3. To develop strong partnerships with parents, support agencies and professionals to provide a cohesive and integrated support package for individuals with special needs.*

Implementation of Policy

At Clarendon Children's Centre we follow the procedures outlined below;

Staffing

All members of staff will be responsible for supporting both parents and children with special educational needs and will be expected to facilitate their inclusion at the Centre.

All staff will have a positive attitude to parents of children with special educational needs and work in partnership with them, communicating sensitively.

Staff Responsibilities will include:

1. The Centre Manager must ensure that staff members receive training and development which helps them to keep up to date with special needs legislation and best practice when working with individuals with special needs.
2. Accessing and attending appropriate skills and training opportunities.
3. Ensuring that any actions recommended by parents or other agencies are carried out.
4. Where appropriate, actively assessing each individual's specific needs and adapting the Centre's facilities, procedures, services and activities to ensure that they are able to access and improve their achievements and outcomes.
5. Ensuring early intervention for all children identified as having special educational needs and co-ordinating access to relevant services.

Centre Manager - Responsibilities:

1. Ensuring that systems are in place to adequately implement the Special Needs policy and that all staff members are made aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs.
2. The Centre Manager will ensure that individuals with special needs are planned for inclusion when devising services and activities. Every practical step will be taken to ensure inclusion at the Centre.
3. The Centre will have excellent communication with the parent or carer to offer sensitive support and advice..
4. The Centre Manager will ensure effective liaison with partner agencies and professionals to provide appropriate support and training for staff . Which will which enable them to effectively support individuals with special needs and help them to achieve more
5. The Centre Manager will ensure equality of opportunity for all by rigorously analyzing information and data gathered about individuals with special needs to ensure the services and support offered at the Centre are improving outcomes for the individual and helping them to achieve more.

Inclusion

The policies, procedures and practices of the Centre in relation to children with Special Needs are in line with current legislation and guidance. Legislation includes *and meets the statutory requirements of the 1996 Education Act and is informed by The Code of practice (2001); The Special Needs and Disability Act (2002) and Every Child Matters (2006)*

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to Centre Manager – Sue Burgess.