



**At Stretton Lodge we are committed to the inclusion of all children. All children have the right to be cared for and educated to achieve the best possible outcomes, to share opportunities and experiences and develop and learn alongside their peers. We provide a positive and welcoming environment where children are supported according to their individual needs.**

We recognise that some children may have additional needs that may require particular help, intervention and support. These needs may be short-lived for a particular time in the child's life or may require longer-term or lifelong support. At all times we will work alongside each child's parents and any relevant professionals to share information, identify needs and help the child and their family access the support they need.

### *Definition of Special Educational Needs (SEN)*

"Children have a Special Educational Need if they have a learning difficulty which calls for Special Educational provision to be made for them". As defined by the equality act 2010 for those who have Special Educational Needs and disabled children.

### **The role of the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)**

Our Nursery Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is **Emma Szymkowska**.

The role of the SENCO is to provide a lead for staff in relation to SEN and disabilities and to make sure procedures are followed, appropriate records kept and parents are involved. The child's practitioner (key person) will normally remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and for planning and delivering an individualised programme. The particular responsibilities of our SENCO are:

- monitoring individual needs of children on record of additional support
- ensuring all practitioners in the setting understand their responsibilities to children with SEN and the setting's approach to identifying and meeting SEN
- Identifying SEN training needs
- offering advice and guidance to parents, carers and staff



- ensuring parents are closely involved throughout and that their insights inform action taken by the setting
- liaising with professionals or agencies beyond the setting
- attending relevant training to keep their knowledge updated
- keeping accurate records

### **Admissions**

In accordance with our admissions policy, we are committed to providing a childcare place, wherever possible, for children who may have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities according to their individual circumstances, and the nursery's ability to make any reasonable adjustments in order to provide the necessary standard of care. When a parent asks to register a child in the nursery where SEN has already been identified we will hold a meeting with C Wyatt (owner), G Murray (nursery manager) and E Szymkowska ( SENCO ) in order to discuss the child's needs and how we can support and accommodate these.

The individual needs of all children will be considered fully. The nursery will be flexible in its settling-in procedures to allow for individual needs.

### **Identification and Assessment**

Staff at Stretton Lodge work closely with their key groups of children and observe them on a daily basis. If a member of staff has a concern about a child then they must raise this concern with the SENCO who would take into account their observations and possibly sit in on the group and make their own notes on the child.

Where we believe a child may have learning difficulties and/or a disability that has not previously been acknowledged, we will work closely with the child's parents and any relevant professionals to establish the child's needs and to secure any action that may be required. We recognise that children with disabilities may not have SEN but may need the nursery to make reasonable adjustments to enable them to make full use of the nursery's facilities.



Where we have emerging concerns about a child and/or where a child has identified additional needs or a disability, we will find out as much as possible about the needs of the child and any support the child or family may need to ensure the child makes the best progress in their learning and development. We do this by:

- liaising with the child's parents
- observing each child's development and monitoring such observations regularly
- Identifying any progress made and what the child's strengths are
- liaising with any other relevant professionals engaged with the child and their family
- seeking any specialist help or support
- researching relevant publications/sources of help
- reading any reports that have been prepared
- attending any assessment or review meetings with the local authority/professionals.

### **Graduated approach**

In line with requirements of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, we take a graduated approach to working with children with emerging concerns and their families. This approach includes:

- An analysis of the child's needs including whether we should seek more specialist help from health, social services or other agencies
- An agreement about the interventions and support needed and the expected impact on progress and a date for review
- Implementation of the interventions or programmes agreed, including assessing the child's response to the action taken
- A review of the effectiveness of the support and its impact on the child's progress by the key person, SENCO, the child's parent(s) and the views of the child, including any agreed changes to outcomes and support
- Revisiting this cycle of action in increasing detail and frequency including seeking further specialist help to secure good progress until the SENCO, key person, the



child's parent(s) and any other professionals involved agree intervention is no longer needed or decide to request an education, health and care needs assessment

### **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment and Plan**

If the help given through the nursery's graduated approach is not sufficient to enable the child to make satisfactory progress, we may request, in consultation with the parents and any external agencies already involved, an assessment of the child's needs by the local authority. This is called an Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment. The assessment will decide whether a child needs an EHC assessment plan. This plan sets out in detail the education, health and social care support that is to be provided to a child who has SEN or a disability. The local authority will consult with parents and let them know the outcome of the assessment.

### **Early help assessment**

If we believe a child and their family would benefit from support from more than one agency, for example where a child may have difficulties linked to poor housing or difficult domestic circumstances, we may request or carry out an inter-agency assessment to get early help for the family. This early help assessment aims to ensure that early help services are co-ordinated and not delivered in a disjointed way.

In our nursery we use the Early Help Assessment (formerly known in Staffordshire as CAF)

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/childcare/childcare/staffordshireearlyhelpassessment.aspx>