



## *Little Acorns of Rushbury*

### *Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer*

The purpose of a local offer is to enable parents and carers to see more clearly what services are available for children with SEND in their area and how to access them.

It is our intention to make Little Acorns genuinely accessible to children and families from all sections of the local community. The following questions and answers forms our local offer and shows how we provide for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

#### **How does Little Acorns know if children need extra help & what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?**

At Little Acorns every child is treated as a unique individual and each child has a key worker. Their role is to develop trusting sensitive relationships with parents and children to enable respectful sharing of information. If you have any concerns about your child's development you can ask for a time when you can discuss this in private with them.

Alternatively, you can discuss this in private with the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) – Elaine Ockenden

Reports from health care professionals, such as health visitors and speech and language therapists identify your child's individual needs. We welcome parents and professionals sharing these reports in order to plan appropriately to meet these needs.

Ongoing observational assessments are made of all children and are linked to the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), which will highlight any concerns regarding the child's development. If your child's key person has identified a possible individual need, they will discuss it with you in private, and plan together with you to support your child's learning and development.

#### **How will Little Acorns support my child?**

Little Acorns is a small group taking a maximum of 10 children per session. Our high adult to child ratio (1 adult to 5 children) ensures that each child receives plenty of adult time and attention.

Our practitioners are welcoming and friendly, providing an inclusive, sensitive and positive approach. They provide good role models for positive behaviour and are consistent in the day to day care of all our children. We are flexible in our routines to provide a positive environment for your child's needs and provide personal care such as changing nappies.

We work closely with parents of children with SEN/disabilities to create and maintain a positive partnership, and ensure that they are informed at all stages of the assessment, planning, provision and review of their children's education.

We liaise with other professionals to meet children's individual needs and are committed to learning all we can about any particular difficulties, so as to provide the highest standard of care possible.

### **How will Little Acorns prepare my child to start the setting or move on to a new school or setting?**

At Little Acorns we want children to feel safe and happy in the absence of their parents, to recognise other adults as a source of authority, help and friendship and to be able to share with their parents the new learning experiences enjoyed in Little Acorns.

In order to accomplish this we aim to create a partnership with parents by:

- Creating opportunities for exchange of information and providing them with a copy of Little Acorns prospectus and registration form.
- Encouraging parents to visit our pre-school with their children during the weeks before the child is due to start.
- Making it clear to families that they will be welcome and supported at Little Acorns for as long as it takes to settle their child.

Sometimes children will move to a new setting. In this situation we will ensure that the child's learning and development records at the time of transition are fully up to date and ready to pass on to the new setting. If needed, and with the parents/carers permission, we are always available to talk with the new setting and share any information that may be deemed useful.

In the case of children with special needs the SENCO will be responsible for sending to the receiving school information which includes the most recent IEP, the most up to date assessments/reports from other professionals and any other information considered of importance. If necessary, we will have a transition meeting with nursery/school staff to pass on information with the child's parent/guardian, and any other agencies involved.

We will always try to make any move for the children as smooth as possible and will help the child and their parent as much as is necessary with any transition their child may need to make, being it moving to school, another nursery, moving house, etc.,

### **How will Little Acorns help me to support my child's learning, and how will I know how my child is developing?**

Within the setting there are communication systems in place, for example; home/school link books, parents evenings, daily conversations with the parents when they bring or collect their child at nursery, newsletters and via the website and our Facebook page. As a setting we can

agree a comfortable form of communication with the parents including verbal, written, email or text.

We invite parents to share their knowledge with the staff about their child's 'wow' moments which are shared within the group and recorded in their "red book". This allows the children to share their achievements with their friends and develop a sense of self-esteem. The child's "red book" which is a record of their progress at Little Acorns, is kept in their drawer and is available to view at any time. Learning Stories (observations) and Learning and Development Summaries are shared with parents regularly.

The setting has an 'open door' policy and encourages practitioners to develop strong liaisons with parents/carers at drop off and collection times. More formal parent evenings are held twice a year.

The SENCO and key person will discuss with you how to support your child's needs outside the setting and explain how they are supporting your child's learning and development within Little Acorns. If your child has particular identified needs we will work in partnership with other professionals to best meet the needs of your child.

### **How do Little Acorns adapt the environment to meet children's needs?**

Although we do not have disabled access or disabled toilets we will do our utmost to provide ramps and adapt the environment to accommodate children with specific needs. Our outdoor area is a great asset, with a secure area for independent play as well as access to the school playgrounds and Forest School area.

### **What expertise does Little Acorns have of supporting children with SEND?**

Our staff are well qualified and experienced in the early years, and have supported children with SEND. Two practitioners are SENCO trained, and have accessed specific training on Makaton and speech and language courses (ELKLAN).

We have good links with our local Children's Centre and we can sign post you to support through them. We also work closely with the Health Visitor and Speech and Language Therapist.

Our SENCO attends termly network meetings to keep up to date with the latest information and news.