Special Educational Needs and Inclusion policy

Date of Policy: March 2019 Responsibility: Kallie Barrington-Light Review Date: March 2020

My childminding service is available to all children.  I am the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) and the Inclusion leader for my setting. It is our belief that all children regardless of their age, sex, cultural background or ability should be treated equally. No child will discriminated against and all children will be treated equally. Each child’s individual needs and preferences will be discussed in full with parents (and the child where possible).   I aim to meet the needs and preferences of each child in relation to their home language(s), intended medium of education and the social, cultural and religious practices are understood and catered for.

Prior to committing to a contract, I will ensure that I am able to meet your child’s individual care needs, and that a plan of care is agreed with you.  This will give everyone the opportunity to focus on supporting the child at whatever stage of development they start at. The child will be given the opportunity to be involved and make choices around the activities and games on offer.

All children in my care are given the opportunity to play with all toys (subject to health and safety with children under 3). No toys are just for girls or just for boys. I try to ensure the toys I provide reflect a positive and balanced view of the world and an appreciation of the rich diversity and cultural differences both locally and across the world.

I will be recording information on the child’s development and behaviour in order to build a picture as to what they can do and are happy doing in order to plan for future learning and development.

My setting will be as child friendly as possible in order to allow all children to participate in events.  Disabled children and those with special educational needs will have opportunities to play and join in activities along with the other children in my care.  Parents and children will be shown around my home to ensure that if a child has a disability that my home will be suitable for their needs. I will access toys and if necessary special equipment to meet a child’s individual needs.

I will encourage children to develop a healthy respect of each other’s differences and to value everyone as an individual

I will respect the privacy of the child if intimate care is necessary.

I have access to a copy of the S.E.N.D Code of Practice and understand the principles behind this. I understand the need to discuss the child’s progress on a regular basis with parents’ as they know their child best. If I have any concerns, or where a possible need for specialist help is identified, I will discuss this with the parent and will always advise them to seek help from relevant professionals i.e. GP, Health Visitor, School Teacher etc.

I will undertake training where possible in order to gain more knowledge and understanding of a child with additional needs.

Under the equality Act 2010 I will not discriminate against a child or parent with a disability and where possible will accept a child with a disability into my care.  I will make reasonable adjustments to my setting in order to facilitate the child’s needs.

When a child is identified as having special needs or starts in my care I will be proactive in ensuring that appropriate action is taken and I will promote the welfare and development of the child in partnership with parents and other relevant agencies. Where necessary, I will undertake training in order to provide quality care.

With effect from 1st September 2014 a new Special Educational needs Code of Practice came into effect which highlights that all children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress. I will provide children with relevant activities and play opportunities that promote their welfare and development and offer an appropriate challenge.

If I think a child in my care has a special need, I will:

Keep observational notes.

Share these with the child’s parents.

Discuss what support is available.

Keep all matters confidential.

If I am caring for a child with special needs, I will include them by:

Valuing and acknowledging children's individuality and help them to feel good about themselves.

Seek information from parents about the child's routines, likes and dislikes.

Adapting activities to enable children with special needs to take part.

Arrange access to specialist equipment if needed.

Consider any risk factors.

Encourage children's confidence and independence.

Where necessary, I will undertake training and seek advice from other professionals in order to provide quality care.

I will work in partnership with parents and discuss:

Agencies that are also involved in the child's support and care.

Equipment that the child may need.

Advice or support that will help me to provide the best care possible for their child.

I will consider how I can ensure the privacy of a child with special needs whilst continuing to supervise other children in my care.