



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer

Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks has regard for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice and is committed to working with Central Bedfordshire Council to support families to enable children to achieve their full potential. The 'Local Offer' provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents and carers in one place. The Local Offer for Central Bedfordshire can be found at <https://localoffer.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

About us	Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks is a committee run community Pre-School offering care and education to children aged between 2 years to 5 years. Located on School Lane. We operate during term time. We also offer wrap around care for children up to the age of 12 attending Acorn Pre-School, Shefford Lower School and Robert Bloomfield Academy. Our Facilities include: Our building was purpose built, to accommodate children with disabilities. We have large changing facilities with child size toilets to encourage independence. Disabled toileting for children. Disabled toileting area for adults use.
Policies/ Procedures linked to our Local Offer	We comply with the Disability Act (2010) in making reasonable adjustments for children with SEND. The following key policies and procedures apply to our commitment of inclusion: • Childcare practice policies • Waiting lists and admission • Identification, assessment and support for children with SEND. • Settling in Pre-School and Transitions • Promoting Positive Behaviour • Intimate care and nappy changing • Health Policies • Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable policies • Promoting inclusion, equality and valuing diversity policies • Working in partnership with parents and other agencies policies
Key People within our setting	Parents/carers can discuss concerns regarding their child's well-being or progress both formally and informally with their child's key persons or the Manager or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. We endeavour to make staff available for discussions at the beginning or end of sessions but where this is not possible an appointment for a more suitable time will always be arranged Our dedicated Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENCO) can be contacted on: Tel: 01462 816281

Identifying children who need additional support	We are committed to early identification of children's special educational needs and use a graduated response to meet these needs in line with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 2015. The three stages of graduated response are as follows: Stage 1 - Extra or different support is provided to that of children of a similar age. Stage 2 - Professional intervention is requested to support the child for example: • Speech and language therapist • Health professionals • Behaviour professionals • Early years SEND Advisory Teachers Stage 3 - If the child's needs are complex or severe, an Education Health and Care (EHC) assessment will be requested. This is carried out by the Local Authority to determine how the child's needs are to be met in an EHC Plan. A child who needs additional help may be identified following concerns raised by their parent or carer, or within the setting by the child's key person who will then liaise closely with our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENCO). We use observation, planning and assessment to enable identification of children who may need additional support or intervention. Children are assessed using developmental milestones taken from Development Matters, Birth to 5 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) and The Department of Education document 'Early Years Foundation Profile Handbook'. For further information we refer to the Central Bedfordshire Guidance on SEND in the Early Years. Parents/carers are kept informed throughout the process of identification and assessment and invited to participate in discussions linked to the support planned for their child and the role they can play at home.
Parents/ Carers involvement and Liaison	Working in partnership with parents/carers is of paramount importance to Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks. Our Policy Identification, assessment and support for children with SEND recognises the valuable contributions parents/carers make which enable children with SEND to achieve their potential. We encourage parents/carers to provide information about their child which, alongside Early Years Educators observations and knowledge of child development is to assess the child's development levels. In partnership with parents/carers, the key person and SENCO will consider the child's needs and progress using the Central Bedfordshire SEND Support Plan which will include: • The long and short-term outcomes that everyone is working toward. • Date for next progress review / meeting. Usually half termly these reviews / meetings will involve contributions from the parents/carers, SENCO, child's key person and where appropriate outside agencies or staff who may be supporting the child. During the review / meeting we will review the SEND support plan and ongoing needs of the child and setting new outcomes as appropriate.

	A child's medical needs are addressed as required. A care plan will be devised in partnership with parents/carers and relevant Health Professionals. Medicines are administered in line with our Administration of Medicine Policy and where necessary staff will receive relevant training. Where it is felt further support would benefit the child/family with parent/carer consent the SENCO/Manager will make a referral to the Central Bedfordshire Early Years Early Help Team requesting an Early Years Initial Assessment by one of the Early Years SEND Advisory Team. As stated in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 2015. In a very few exceptional cases where there are severe, and complex needs an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) needs assessment request may be necessary. Where appropriate, to support families, we will sign-post/refer parent/carers to outside agencies and support groups such as The Parent Partnership. At all times we will have regard for Safeguarding and protecting children in our care.
Types of support Available	Support for children will vary according to their individual and/or medical needs and may include: • Participation in small group activities which address their particular needs e.g. Lift Off to Language groups or specific programmes as devised by Speech and Language Services or the Early Years Support Team (EYST) • Adapting routines and activities to meet individual needs, which may include providing a visual timetables or alternative communication systems e.g. photographs or pictures of references • Visits from the Early Years SEND Advisory Team for advice and support. • Time incorporated into daily routines to work on outcomes specified in the child's SEND Support Plan either on a 1:1 basis or in a small group. • Following advice given by other professionals, e.g. Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapist reports. • Risk assessments where applicable for individual children and particular activities, in conjunction with the SENCO. Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks may apply for and be provided with additional funding from Central Bedfordshire Council. The funding will be used to support the child as appropriate and will enable staff to spend time applying strategies as recommended by professionals. We recognise that some children behave differently in different environments. It is our intention to work with parents/carers, informing them of any changes in their child's behaviour and our concerns as they occur. Equally we encourage parents/carers to discuss their concerns so that we can develop a consistent approach to supporting children's individual behavioural needs.
Staff knowledge and training	Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks staff have encountered a range of children with special educational needs, some with medical conditions and/or disabilities. In most cases the child's needs have been met through additional support and a differentiation of activities. Our SENCO holds an appropriate qualification SEND and completes CPD training and further professional study days.

	Staff access training through Central Bedfordshire Academy Training and Development. Training completed by staff include: Safeguarding Paediatric First aid Auto-injector (Epi-pen), in line with our insurance we are required to receive this training before the child joins the setting. To support the individual needs of children with SEND Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks will seek advice and relevant training.
Agencies and support networks	We liaise closely with outside agencies and welcome the support of external professionals to ensure we meet the needs of children with SEND. This support may include providing observations, reports, advice for staff and parents and where necessary attending professional meetings. Agencies who may be involved include: • Local Authority Early Years SEND Advisory Teachers (Psychology and Advisory Support Service) • Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) • Health Visitor • Child Bereavement, Trauma and Emotional Wellbeing Service (CHUMS) • Children with Disabilities Team Child Development Centre which may include support from: • Physiotherapist • Speech and Language Therapist • The hearing Impaired Team • Visually Impaired Team • Occupational Therapist
Further Information	For further information, please contact us at: Acorn Pre-school and the Mighty Oaks, School Lane, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5XA Email: info@acornpre-school.co.uk Tel: 01462 816281