

4.2 Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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4.2 Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Policy Statement

Miss B's Nursery is committed to providing an inclusive environment where every child is supported to develop, learn and reach their full potential. This includes children who have **special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**. We recognise that children develop at different rates and may require varying levels of support to participate fully in nursery life and access the curriculum.

The nursery follows the principles outlined in the **Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015)** and works in partnership with parents, carers and professionals to ensure children receive appropriate support.

Miss B's Nursery aims to ensure that all children feel valued, respected and included. We recognise the importance of working closely with families to understand each child's individual needs and provide tailored support where necessary.

This policy reflects the rights of children under the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, including:

- **Article 2** – All children have the right to protection from discrimination.
- **Article 3** – The best interests of the child must always be considered.
- **Article 12** – Children have the right to express their views and be listened to.
- **Article 23** – Children with disabilities have the right to special care and support.
- **Article 28** – Every child has the right to education.
- **Article 29** – Education should support children's full development and respect for others.

Miss B's Nursery aims to ensure that children with SEND are able to participate in nursery activities alongside their peers in a supportive and inclusive environment.

4.2.1 Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)

Miss B's Nursery appoints a **Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)** who is responsible for coordinating support for children with SEND within the setting.

The SENCo's responsibilities include:

- overseeing day-to-day provision for children with SEND.
- ensuring the SEND policy is implemented effectively.
- supporting staff in identifying and responding to children's additional needs.
- maintaining communication with parents and carers.
- coordinating support plans and strategies.
- liaising with external professionals and agencies.

The SENCo works closely with services provided by **West Sussex County Council's SEND services** to ensure children receive appropriate support.

4.2.2 Supporting Children with Identified SEND

Where a child has been identified as having SEND prior to joining Miss B's Nursery, we work closely with their family and any professionals already involved in supporting the child.

This includes:

- welcoming the child and their family into the nursery.
- gathering information about the child's needs before they begin attending.
- establishing strong partnerships with parents or carers.
- working collaboratively with professionals who are already supporting the child.

Where appropriate, the nursery liaises with **West Sussex SEND services** and other relevant agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is in place.

4.2.3 Accessing Additional Support and Resources

Some children may require additional support beyond the nursery's usual staffing arrangements.

Where necessary, Miss B's Nursery will:

- seek advice and support from **West Sussex SEND services**.
- apply for additional funding or resources where appropriate.

- consider providing additional staffing support if required.

The nursery may work with a range of professionals including:

- health visitors
- speech and language therapists
- educational psychologists
- paediatricians
- occupational therapists
- social workers
- portage workers.

Working with these professionals helps ensure children receive coordinated and effective support.

4.2.4 Identifying Possible SEND

Staff observe children carefully during their play, learning and daily routines to monitor their development and progress.

If concerns arise regarding a child's development or behaviour:

- The child's **Key Person** will discuss observations with other staff members.
- Parents or carers will be approached sensitively to share concerns.
- Staff and parents will work together to consider possible strategies for support.

Early identification helps ensure that children receive appropriate support as soon as possible.

4.2.5 Graduated Approach to Supporting SEND

Miss B's Nursery follows the **graduated approach** recommended in the SEND Code of Practice.

This approach uses a cycle of:

Assess – Plan – Do – Review

- **Assess:** Identify the child's needs through observation and discussion with parents.

- **Plan:** Agree appropriate strategies and support.
- **Do:** Implement these strategies within the nursery environment.
- **Review:** Monitor progress and adjust support where necessary.

Parents and carers are involved throughout this process to ensure decisions reflect the child's needs and family circumstances.

4.2.6 West Sussex Local Offer

Miss B's Nursery works in partnership with **West Sussex County Council** and provides families with information about the **West Sussex Local Offer**.

The Local Offer provides information about services available to support children with SEND and their families, including:

- educational support services
- health services
- social care support
- community groups and activities.

Nursery staff can help parents access the Local Offer where required.

Providing families with access to these services supports **UNCRC Article 23**, ensuring that children with disabilities receive the support they need to participate fully in society.

4.2.7 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

Some children with more complex or long-term needs may have an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.

An EHCP outlines the child's needs and the support required across education, health and social care.

Where a child attending Miss B's Nursery has an EHCP, the nursery will:

- work closely with parents or carers.
- collaborate with professionals involved in the child's support.
- Implement the strategies outlined within the EHCP.

- contribute to EHCP reviews and provide information about the child's progress.

Miss B's Nursery participates in review meetings and works collaboratively with other professionals to ensure the child's needs are met effectively.

4.2.8 Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

Miss B's Nursery recognises that parents and carers play a vital role in supporting their child's development and wellbeing.

We aim to build strong, respectful partnerships with families by:

- sharing observations and progress with parents regularly.
- discussing any concerns or developments sensitively.
- Involving parents in decision-making regarding support strategies.
- providing information about services and support available locally.
- respecting parents' knowledge and understanding of their child.

This partnership approach supports **UNCRC Article 12**, ensuring that the views of children and their families are respected and considered.

4.2.9 Monitoring and Reviewing SEND Provision

Miss B's Nursery regularly reviews the effectiveness of SEND provision to ensure children receive appropriate support.

This includes:

- monitoring children's progress and development.
- reviewing individual support plans and strategies.
- discussing progress during staff meetings and supervision.
- reflecting on practice and making improvements where needed.

The SENCo works with staff to ensure that the nursery environment, resources and teaching approaches remain inclusive and supportive for all children.

4: Equal opportunities

Regular review helps ensure that Miss B's Nursery continues to provide high-quality inclusive practice that supports the learning and wellbeing of every child.
