



BRENTWOOD
DAY NURSERY

Our Local Offer: Support for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We are committed to ensuring every child feels safe, happy, and supported, whatever their needs may be. Below is a clear and friendly guide to how we support children with SEND at our setting.

1. Identifying if a Child Needs Extra Help

- Parents complete an *All About Me* form when their child starts with us. This provides us with more information about their child and is discussed with the child's key person during the settling-in session.
- During the settling-in session, we spend time getting to know each child and their unique ways of communicating and interacting.
- Our trained staff closely observe how children play, interact, and express themselves.
- If staff have any concerns, they consult with our SENDCo or Assistant SENDCo for guidance.
- Parents are welcome to speak with us at any time about any worries or questions they may have.

2. How We Support Children with SEND

- For children requiring extra support, we work with parents and children to create a One Page Profile. This outlines what the child enjoys, what helps them, and how they learn best.
- We hold regular meetings with parents to review progress and agree on next steps.
- Individual Support Plans are created for children who need additional help, ensuring consistency across all staff.
- We work with a range of professional services such as Speech and Language Therapists, Local Inclusion Partners, Health Visitors, and others to gain advice and specialist support.
- We use a variety of tools to support communication, including Makaton, visual aids, and sensory supports.
- Our staff regularly attend SEND training to stay up to date with best practices.
- We support families in accessing additional services and funding, such as Disability Access Funding (DAF), Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF).

3. Planning Learning for Children with SEND

- Activities are carefully adapted to meet each child's individual needs and learning style.
- We offer calm areas and sensory resources to create safe, supportive spaces.
- When appropriate, funding allows us to provide enhanced provision and support.
- Staff are trained in supporting a wide range of SEND, including speech delays, sensory needs, and neurodivergent conditions.
- Specialist resources and approaches such as communication tools: Makaton, visual aids are used daily to promote understanding.

4. Working in Partnership with Parents

- We build strong relationships with families from the very beginning.
- Parents are actively involved in all planning, decision-making, and review processes.
- We take time to explain systems like EHCPs, referrals, and funding clearly and simply.
- We operate an open-door policy; parents can speak to us at any time.
- We regularly share ideas and strategies for supporting learning and development at home, as well as signposting local services and events.

5. Supporting Children's Wellbeing

- Our setting is designed to be calm, inclusive, and nurturing.
- We can provide smaller group work or enhanced provision to reduce overwhelm and help build confidence.
- Staff are trained to administer medication and manage a range of medical needs safely and confidently.
- We promote diversity and inclusion, helping all children understand and celebrate differences.

6. Staff Training and Expertise

- Our SENDCo is fully trained and regularly attends local SEND network meetings and professional development training.
- All staff receive ongoing training in SEND awareness, communication strategies, and inclusion.
- Every team member holds a paediatric first aid certification.

7. Working with External Specialists

- We collaborate with a wide range of professionals, including speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, health visitors, and other local services (parental consent is obtained before working directly with a child and their family).
- We support smooth transitions to school by working closely with the child's future school and involving their SENDCo in the process.
- We signpost parents to helpful services such as SNAP, local SEND drop-in centres, and support groups/sessions.

8. Inclusive Activities for All

- Every child is included in trips and special events, such as visits to the library, animal experiences, Christmas celebrations.
- We make the most of outdoor learning, including field walks, visits to the local tea rooms for treats, and our Outdoor Explorers Club in nearby woodland.
- Events and celebrations are designed to be inclusive and accessible for all families.

9. An Inclusive Environment

- Our setting is wheelchair accessible and easy to move around.
- We provide quiet and cosy spaces for children who need time away from busy environments.
- Staff are trained to meet individual physical, emotional, and medical needs.

10. Starting Nursery and Moving On

- Before a child starts, we gather as much helpful information from parents as possible to support a smooth transition into the nursery.
- Flexible settling-in sessions are offered to help children feel confident and secure.
- We carry out early observations to identify any support that may be needed.
- For school transitions, we liaise with the new school, share information, and hold Transition Meetings with families in preparation for their start.
- Some children will use a personalised Transition Book to help prepare for the move.

11. Organising Resources

- We use tools such as visual timetables, picture exchange cards (PECS) and communication boards to support daily routines.

- Support Bags are available for families to borrow, containing books and strategies on topics such as toilet training, separation anxiety, or managing emotions.
- Funding is used to:
 - facilitating the child's inclusion
 - enhancing the adult to child ratio
 - enabling participation in activities
 - acquiring resources specific to support learning and development
 - paying for relevant training costs or for staff to attend training
 - covering costs for staff attendance at meetings with parents and professionals
- Staff continuously update their knowledge to ensure resources meet the needs of all children.

12. Choosing the Right Support

- We work closely with children, families, and professionals to find the most appropriate support for each child.
- Regular review meetings help us assess what is working well and what could be improved.
- We follow national and local SEND guidelines to ensure every child receives support tailored to them.

13. Involving Families Every Step of the Way

- From day one, families are at the heart of everything we do.
- Parents are active partners in every discussion and decision.
- We invite families to attend workshops, stay-and-play sessions, and inclusive events throughout the year.
- We provide clear signposting to local and national support networks for families of children with SEND.

14. Need More Help or Information?

Please don't hesitate to speak to our SENDCo or Assistant SENDCo.

We're always happy to chat, answer your questions, or point you in the right direction.

For more information about local services and support in Essex, visit the Essex Local Offer:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/>