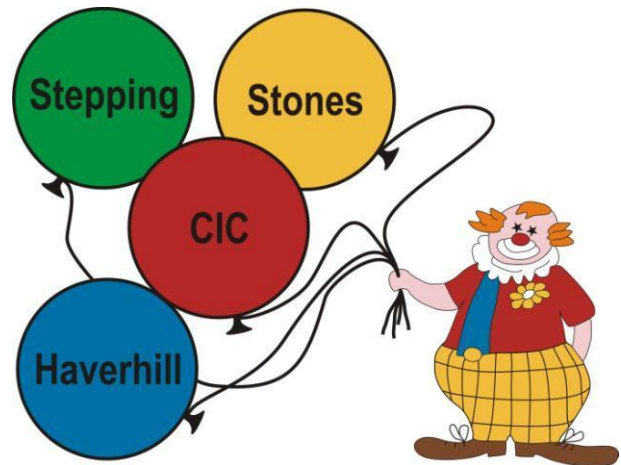


General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



Equality of opportunity

12. Supporting ~ Special Educational Needs & Disability

Policy statement

We provide an environment in which all children, including those with special educational needs and disability, are supported to reach their full potential. This policy represents the agreed principles for Special Educational Needs throughout the preschool (including our wrap around care) This policy is in line with the Code of Practice 2014 and Equality Act 2010.

“Children have a Special Educational Need if they have a learning difficulty which calls for Special Educational provision to made for them” As defined by the Code of Practice 2015 for those who have Educational Needs and disabled children.

The aims and objectives of this policy are:

- We have regard for the DfES SEND (2015)
- To create an environment that meets the Special Educational Needs of each child;
- To ensure that the Special Educational Needs of children are identified, assessed and provided for;
- To make clear the expectations of all partners in the process;
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for children's Special Educational Needs;
- To enable all children to have full access to all elements of the preschool curriculum;
- To ensure that parents are able to play their part in supporting their child's education;
- To ensure that all our children have a voice in this process.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.1 child development	2.1 Respecting each other	3.2 Supporting every child	4.1 Play and exploration
1.2 Inclusive practice	2.2 Parents as partners	3.3 The learning	4.2 Active learners

Introduction & Procedures

The Special Needs Coordinators (SENCO) is Elaine McManus and Deputy SENCO is Anne Jessop, with Kerry Hulyer in training. The building is accessible for wheelchair users.

At Stepping Stones Childcare & Education CIC we strive to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children for them to become confident young children with a growing ability to communicate their own views and ready to make the transition into compulsory education.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is our starting point for planning that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. When planning, staff set suitable learning challenges and respond to children's diverse learning needs. Some children have barriers to learning that mean they have special needs and require particular action by the nursery.

Where a child appears to be behind expected levels, or where a child's progress gives cause for concern, practitioners should consider all the information about the child's learning and development from within and beyond the setting, from formal checks, from practitioner observations and from any more detailed assessment of the child's needs. From within the setting practitioners should particularly consider information on a child's progress in communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Where any specialist advice has been sought from beyond the setting, this should also inform decisions about whether or not a child has SEND. All the information should be brought together with the observations of parents and considered with them. A delay in learning and development in the early years may or may not indicate that a child has SEND, that is, that they have a learning difficulty

or disability that calls for special educational provision. Equally, difficult or withdrawn behaviour does not necessarily mean that a child has SEND. However, where there are concerns, there should be an assessment to determine whether there are any causal factors such as an underlying learning or communication difficulty. If it is thought housing, family or other domestic circumstances may be contributing to the presenting behaviour, a multiagency approach, supported by the use of approaches such as the Early Help Assessment, should be adopted. Children may have Special Educational Needs or Disability either throughout or at any time during their nursery development. This policy ensures that curriculum planning

and assessment for children with Special Educational Needs takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child.

Educational Inclusion

At Stepping Stones Childcare & Education CIC we aim to offer excellence and choice to all our children, whatever their ability or needs. We have high expectations of all our children. We aim to achieve this through the removal of barriers to learning and participation. We want all our children to feel that they are a valued part of our nursery community.

Through appropriate curricular provision, we respect the fact that children:

- have different educational and behavioral needs and aspirations;
- require different strategies for learning;
- acquire, assimilate and communicate information at different rates;
- need a range of different teaching approaches and experiences.

Identifying and assessing SEND for young children whose first language is not English requires particular care. Early year's practitioners should look carefully at all aspects of a child's learning and development to establish whether any delay is related to learning English as an additional language or if it arises from SEN or disability. Difficulties related solely to learning English as an additional language are not SEND.

Staff respond to children's needs by:

- providing support for children who need help with communication, language and literacy;
- planning to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses and experiences;
- planning for children's full participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities;
- helping children to manage their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely;
- helping individuals to manage their emotions, particularly trauma or stress, and to take part in learning.

It is particularly important in the early years that there is no delay in making any necessary special educational provision. Delay at this stage can give rise to learning difficulty and subsequently to loss of self-esteem, frustration in learning and to behaviour difficulties. Early action to address identified needs is critical to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping the child to prepare for adult life.

Special Educational Needs

Children with Special Educational Needs or/and Disability have learning difficulties that call for special provision to be made. All children may have special needs at some time in their lives. Children have a learning difficulty if:

- they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities that are provided for children of the same age;

All our children are assessed when they join our preschool, so that we can build upon their prior learning. We use this information to provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum for all our children. If our assessments show that a child may have a learning difficulty, we use a range of strategies that make full use of all available resources. In liaison with the Special Educational Need & Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO), the child's Key person will offer interventions that are 'different from' or 'additional to' those provided as part of the nursery's usual working practices. The Key person will keep parents informed and draw upon them for additional information. If the SENDCO, Key person and parents feel that the child would benefit from further support, the SENDCO will then take the lead in further assessments of the child's needs. The Individual Assessment of Early Learning and Development (IAELD) is designed to be completed if practitioners are concerned about a child's rate of progress compared with their peers, or when some of their skills appear to be delayed. The IAELD assesses a child's skills within the setting in collaboration with parents or carers.

We will record the strategies used to support the child within an Individual Education Plan (IEP), starting with SEN support. The IEP will show the short-term targets set for the child and the teaching strategies to be used. It will also indicate the planned outcomes and the date for the plan to be reviewed. In most cases, this review will take place once a term. Parents will be involved in the writing and review of each IEP.

If the IEP (SEN Support) review identifies that support is needed from outside services, we will consult parents prior to any support being actioned. In most cases, children will be seen in the nursery by external support services. This may lead to 'additional' or 'different' strategies and external support outside of the nursery. External support services will provide information for the child's new IEP (SEND Support). The new strategies within the IEP will, wherever possible, be implemented in the child's nursery setting. If the child continues to demonstrate significant cause for concern, a request for statutory assessment will be made to the LEA. The SENDCO will start the procedures. A range of written evidence about the child will support the request. Some children at Stepping Stones may have significant behaviour problems. Staff use a range of strategies for dealing with difficult behaviour, but some children may require further support. In these cases the SENDCO, Key person, outside agencies and parents will create a Nurture Plan, clearly outlining key targets for the child to work towards achieving, as well as the strategies and support being offered to the child. At this point advice would also be sought from external support services. Nurture Plans are reviewed.

Early Support (from outside agencies)

Early Support supports parents and carers of children aged five and under. It brings together all the services and support available from different agencies. This makes it easier for families to co-ordinate their child's health, education

and social care needs.

Some families will have a key worker who provides advice and support and can help negotiate the system. A key worker may be needed more at some times than at others. Families can decide what works best for them. Early Support has developed a wide range of resources, training courses and workshops.

They can include A Family Pack containing information booklets about services and the Family File for sharing information with service providers easily

- materials and resources to record your child's development
- information booklets on a range of disabilities and conditions
- A range of training courses developed for families and carers to help them use the resources and services offered by Early Support

Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Where, despite the setting having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child, the child has not made expected progress, the setting should consider requesting an Education, Health and Care Plan needs assessment. Where a child has an EHCP, the local authority must review that plan as a minimum every twelve months. As part of the review, the local authority can ask settings, and require maintained nursery schools, to convene and hold the annual review meeting on its behalf. The purpose of an EHCP is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood. To achieve this, local authorities use the information from the assessment to:

- establish and record the views, interests and aspirations of the parents and child or young person
- provide a full description of the child or young person's special educational needs and any health and social care needs
- establish outcomes across education, health and social care based on the child or young person's needs and aspirations
- specify the provision required and how education, health and care services will work together to meet the child or young person's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The CAF is a shared assessment and planning framework for the use across all children's services and all local areas in England. It aims to help the early identification of children and young people's additional needs and promote coordinated service provision to meet them.

The CAF is aimed at children and young people with additional needs who have needs that are not being met by their current service provision.

- manage the day-to-day operation of the policy;
- co-ordinate the provision for and manages the responses to children's special needs;
- support and advise colleagues;
- oversee the records of all children with Special Educational Needs and Disability
- act as link with external agencies and other support agencies;
- monitor and evaluate the Special Educational Needs provision.
- manage a range of resources, human and material, to enable appropriate provision for children with Special Education and Disability
- contribute to the professional development of all staff.

Local Offer

Local authorities (Suffolk County Council) must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. In setting out what they 'expect to be available', local authorities should include provision which they believe will actually be available.

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it, and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.

Allocation of resources

The SENDCO is responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for special needs provision within the nursery, including the provision for children with additional needs. We may apply with parental permission for Exceptional Needs Funding through Suffolk County Council.

Assessment

Early identification is vital. Nursery staff inform the parents at the earliest opportunity to alert them to concerns and enlist their active help and participation.

The staff and the SENDCO assess and monitor the children's progress in line with existing nursery practices. This is an

ongoing process.

The SENDCO works closely with parents and Key person and the key person will plan an appropriate programme of support.

The assessment of children reflects as far as possible their participation in the whole curriculum of the preschool. The Key person and the SENDCO can break down the assessment into smaller steps in order to aid progress and provide detailed and accurate indicators.

Access to the curriculum

All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to enable children to:

- understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities;
- experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.

Staff use a range of strategies to meet children's Special Educational Need and Disability learning and activities have clear learning objectives, we differentiate work appropriately, and we use assessment to inform the next stage of learning. Individual Education Plans (IEPs), which employ a small-steps approach, feature significantly in the provision that we make in the nursery. By breaking down the existing levels of attainment into finely graded steps and targets, we ensure that children experience success.

We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. Wherever possible we do not withdraw children from the nursery situation. There are times, though, when to maximise learning, we ask the children to work in small groups, or in a one-to-one situation outside the main learning environment.

Partnership with parents

At Stepping Stones Childcare & Education CIC we work closely with parents in the support of those children with Special Educational Needs and disability. We encourage an active partnership through an ongoing dialogue with parents. Parents have much to contribute to our support for children with Special Educational Needs. We have termly meetings with parents to review the progress of their children against the targets set in the IEP (SEND Support) and to set new targets for the next term. We inform the parents of any outside intervention, and we share the process of decision-making by providing clear information relating to the education of children with Special Educational Need and Disability

Pupil participation

Within our preschool we encourage children to take responsibility and to make decisions. This is part of the culture of the

preschool and relates to children of all ages and all abilities. The work in the preschool recognises the importance of children developing social as well as educational skills.

Partnership with Suffolk County Council

Suffolk County Council helps make the links between education, health and social care to facilitate appropriate early provision for children with SEND and their transition to compulsory schooling.

Typically, the role of the Suffolk County Council includes:

- providing advice and practical support to early years providers about approaches to identification, assessment and intervention within the SEND Code of Practice
- providing day-to-day support for setting-based SENDCOs in ensuring arrangements are in place to support children with SEND
- strengthening the links between the settings, parents, schools, social care and health services
- developing and disseminating good practice
- supporting the development and delivery of training both for individual settings and on a wider basis
- developing links with existing SENDCO networks to support smooth transitions to school nursery and reception classes, and
- informing parents of and working with local impartial information, advice and support services, to promote effective work with parents of children in the early years
- The SENDCO plays an important part in planning for children with SEND to transfer between early year's provision and schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The SENDCO and assistant monitor the movement of children within the Special Educational Need and Disability system in the preschool. The SENDCO and assistant provide staff with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the nursery. The SENDCO draws up Individual Education Plans (SEND Support) for children with the child's key person.

The SENDCO and key person will monitor the progress of children with Special Educational Need and Disability termly and discusses findings with all staff and parents. If you would like to discuss your child's special needs and support, please talk to: Elaine McManus, Anne Jessop or Kerry Hulyer

Role and Responsibilities of SENDCO:

- o Ensure your setting has regard to the SEND Code of Practice (2015), the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) (1995) and the Equality Act 2010 and to ensure that all policies are kept up to date with legislation.

To be Responsible for ensuring:

- An SEND Inclusion Policy is in place
- The policy is put into Practice
- The policy is reviewed annually
- Observation, Recording, Assessment and Planning
- Take the lead in observations and assessments of children with SEND including their strengths and areas
- To develop using the Individual Assessment of Early Learning and Development (IAELD) where appropriate
- Liaise with the key person to complete the IAELD and set IEP's (SEND Support)
- Gather evidence and co-ordinate support, work with colleagues to develop the child's skills through inclusive planning in line with Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.
- Keep appropriate records which are regularly reviewed and monitored;
- Exceptional Needs Funding where appropriate.
- Support agencies and families with Educational Health Care Plans
- Work closely with parents to ensure background information is collected and shared appropriately.
- Liaison
- Liaise with colleagues and managers as appropriate;
- Promote a positive working relationship with parents/carers;
- Develop links and liaise as appropriate with other professionals, Health Visitors, SEND preschool Advisory Teacher, Speech and Language Therapists, Inclusion Development Officer, Educational Psychologists.
- Professional Development
- Attend SENDCo clusters regularly to update and inform;
- Identify individual setting's needs and arrange in-house training where appropriate.
- Have an awareness of Early Support and Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
- Use your knowledge and experience to support your setting to develop their inclusive practice.

Please note that all staff should read the MASH & LADO posters within the setting

This policy and procedures are written in line with current guidance Early Years Foundation Stage – (EYFS). The manager and deputy are responsible for ensuring all staff understand and follow these procedures. All nursery staff will be required to read policies during their induction and to comply with the contents of each policy. The policies are kept in the policy point folder and will be available for staff to refer to at all times.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/10/contents>

<http://ncb.org.uk/early-support/resources/information-resources>

<http://ncb.org.uk/early-support/resources/mapit-tool>

<http://ncb.org.uk/early-support/resources/developmental-journals>

Please refer to other policies within the setting:

1. Safeguarding - Children rights & Entitlement
2. Safeguarding - Safe Guarding & child protection
3. Safeguarding - Looked after children
4. Safeguarding - confidentiality & Client access to records
5. Safeguarding - Information sharing & Data Protection
6. Safeguarding - Uncollected children
7. Safeguarding - Missing Child
8. Safeguarding – Supervision of children on outings
9. Safeguarding - Maintaining children's safety and security on premises
10. Safeguarding – Making a complaint
11. Equality of opportunity - Valuing diversity & Promoting equality
12. Equality of opportunity - Achieving positive behaviour
13. Childcare & Practice – Key Person
14. Aims – The aims of the preschool
15. Partnership – Parental involvement
16. Partnership – Working in partnership with other agencies
17. Record keeping – Children's records
18. Record keeping – Provider records
19. Record keeping – Transferring records to other settings

Please note that all staff should read and be aware of the MASH & LADO posters within the setting.

This policy was adopted by	Stepping Stones Childcare & Education CIC
On	28.02.2017
Date reviewed	October 2020
Date to be reviewed	October 2021
Signed on behalf of the management	
Name of signatory	ELAINE MCMANUS
Role of signatory (e.g. manager/ deputy)	MANAGER
Name of signatory	ANNE JESSOP
Role of signatory (e.g. manager/ deputy)	DEPUTY

Review:

This policy is reviewed every year or whenever deemed necessary by the manager in the light of events and changes in the law.

This policy was sent to staff to read on 14/10/2020 and needs to be acknowledged by staff on the log of policies document.