

Overview of our Education Setting

Little paws nursery offers care and education for children aged 2 to school age, 4 days per week, term time only. Based within a large community hall with a large outside area with disability access.

Our Local Offer

How does your education setting know if children/young people need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

All children develop at their own rates during the early years and we complete regular tracking of where children are working at through the Early Years Foundation Stage. If a child is working below the expected age and stage their child's key-person will speak to the nursery SenCo (special educational needs co-ordinator) for advice and support, we will then speak to you as parents as we realise you know your child best and we will work with you to give your child the best support available.

If you think your child may need extra support or may have a specific need we would urge you to speak to your child's key-person or the SenCo or go to your local health visitor or GP for further advice and support.

How will the education setting staff support my child / young person?

We have a number of staff who have personal and professional experience of supporting children with special and specific needs such as children with mild and moderate hearing loss and using hearing aids, speech and language delay and global development delays.

We have a fully trained SenCo who will work with you, the parent / carer and your child's key-person at our introductory sessions to find out how we can best support your child. The SenCo will ensure all staff are aware of your child's needs and adjustments will be made to the nursery if needed to ensure they can access the equipment and activities each day.

Your child's key-person and the SenCo will develop an Individual support plan using the information you give us and will share this with you at the most convenient time for you and this will be reviewed and adapted regularly with staff undertaking relevant and specialist training if needed.

How will the curriculum at your education setting be matched to my child / young person's needs?

All children develop at their own rate and each child within Little Paws Nursery will be assigned a key-person who will be responsible for supporting their progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.



With the use of Individual Plans of Development (IPLDs) children's progress is monitored and recorded. With this information being made into a learning journal for you to keep at the end of their time with us.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is a tool we use to ensure children make progress in their learning and experiences and we encourage children to develop and learn through play and through their own interests in all seven areas of learning.

How will both you and I know how my child / young person is doing and how will you help me to support my child / young person's learning?

At the end of each session we strive to ensure each and every parent has an informal record of their child's day and what experiences they have had. Children with limited speech are provided with a 'what have I done today?' or an 'ask me about' slip which can be used as prompts by you to speak about your child's day.

By using IPLDs and tracking procedures we are able to monitor your child's progress regularly, using these strategies enables us to see if a child may need extra support in one or a number of areas.

We provide monthly newsletters via email or as a paper copy, whichever is more convenient to you. These newsletters include updates of what we are doing in the nursery and has a rhyme of the month and a home link activity to encourage parent partnerships. Children also take turns taking home a homelink bag with activities to do with you at home with ideas of how to teach through play.

What support will there be for my child / young person's overall wellbeing?

We believe a child needs to be physically and mentally healthy to ensure they can access everything which we have to offer confidently and competently.

Your child's key-person and SenCo will discuss with you and your child about their likes and dislikes as well as what we will need to enable them to be a fully included member of our nursery.

Individual health plans will be made alongside risk assessments to ensure all staff are aware of your child's needs and what adaptations need to take place both inside and outside the nursery building including trips into the local community.



All children entering the nursery are asked about their medical history, including regular medications taken, allergies and dietary requirements. This information is recorded on an easy to view chart, accessible by all staff.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by your education setting?

Within the nursery we have a member of staff with personal experience of supporting children with moderate hearing loss and using / maintaining hearing aids and so has a great awareness of the difficulties children with hearing loss can come across and how to overcome them. A number of staff have used Makaton and can support children with speech and language difficulties and a minimum of 50% of our staff have had paediatric first aid training and a range of training to support children with English with additional language, needing behaviour support, autism awareness and supporting looked after children, i.e. foster care.

The nursery accesses support from the Area Inclusions Officer, EMTAS, (Ethnic Minority and Travellers Achievement Service) as well as speech and language therapists and social workers.

Where a child attends our nursery who has a specific need the SenCo will access any training and support available through parents, health visitors, training courses and specialist advisers.

What training are the staff supporting children and young people with SEN and Disabilities had or are having?

Little Paws Nursery currently has one member of staff completing their Foundation Degree in the Early Years which helps staff to understand how reflecting on practice can support children, parents and staff within the nursery.

Two members of staff are at a level 3 childcare qualification and two currently working towards their level 3 qualifications and 1 working towards her level 2 qualifications. All staff have child protection and child safeguarding training and are aware of the promotion of children's rights supporting children's equality.

How will my child / young person be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

Our outside area is easily accessible for all children including those with difficulties moving and the area has floor and tray based activities each day. Risk assessments are carried out for all areas of the pre-school and the local community we visit and new



ones are made if children with specific needs are attending the trip. Every adjustment will be made to ensure every child has the opportunity to participate. We ensure any medical equipment and medicines including asthma pumps etc. are taken for the relevant children for each trip.

How accessible is the education setting?

Little Paws Nursery is based within a community centre and has plenty of street parking available near a sloped entrance to the building. The nursery is on one level including the outside area and is wide enough for wheelchair access. The nursery also has access to disabled toilets and showers if needed. The outside area includes grassed and cement bases with sloped hills going on to the grass area.

How will the education setting prepare and support my child / young person to join the education setting, transfer to a new education setting or the next education stage and life?

When you first look around Little Paws Nursery the manager or deputy will speak to you about your and your child's wants and needs from a nursery and discuss your child's specific needs if they have one. We offer introductory sessions for all new children and we use this time to speak with you the parent and assess any adjustments which we may need to make to ensure your child can confidently access everything in the nursery.

If your child sees an outside agency we will access, for example a teacher of the deaf, diabetes nurse, we will arrange a meeting with them if possible for more information regarding your child's needs can be sought.

When your child moves from our setting we will ensure the relevant and appropriate information is shared when and if necessary.

How are the education settings resources allocated and matched to children and young people's Special Educational Needs and disabilities?

The layout of our rooms ensure we have a mixture of floor based and table based activities each day and equipment will be moved from floor to table and vice versa to enable everyone to access them. Assessments are made regularly to ensure the equipment we have is safe and suitable for the children we have present and to assess that the needs of the children are catered for.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child / young person will receive?



Through discussion with you, the parent, your child's key-person and the SenCo we will decide together the best type of action to take to support your child, and will contact the area Inclusions officer and outside agencies where needed.

An Individual support plan will be made by the SenCo and will be reviewed and updated regularly to assess the support needed. We use stickers as rewards either straight to the child or on a sticker cart, depending on your child's need.

How are parents currently involved in your education setting? How can I be involved?

Little Paws Nursery encourages parents to be involved in the children's learning throughout the year. Monthly newsletters are sent out with a nursery rhyme of the month for both parents and children to learn and a monthly homelink activity for parents to work with their children to support them learning through play within the topic of the month and then share with children and key-persons at nursery. The homelink activity includes information about why and how these activities support your child's learning and development. We have a range of homelink bags which parents and children can work together on as well as having the opportunity to take our teddy home or on holiday with them for a week.

