Our SEND Offer

At Whitchurch Under Fives we offer introductory sessions for you and your child to become familiar with our setting and its staff. We take this opportunity to begin to form a relationship with you as a family and answer any questions or concerns we can help with. During these introductory sessions you will be asked to fill in an ‘All About Me’ form giving us details of your child and their interests. A key person is assigned to your child to support them in their learning. We offer home visits to cement a bond with the key person (these will be doorstep visits due to COVID 19), your child and family. We have low number settling sessions for your child and their key person to get to know each other, your key person will observe and plan for your child needs and extend their learning. We send home 2 labels each term (just ask for more if needed) for you to add things you and your child have done at home/on holiday and add these to their learning diary after sharing with their friends. If you go away on a trip for the weekend and would like to take one of our toys please ask, we would love to see a photo of your child with the toy and a little about what they got up to just in case your child goes a little quiet when telling their friends, we will include this in their learning diary for when they leave.

**How do Whitchurch Under Fives Identify that a child needs extra support?**

We carryout assessments and share with parents, who are encouraged to add their comments, supporting partnership in their child’s learning. During our Introductory sessions, home visits and settling sessions, your child’s key person familiarises themselves with the child’s individual needs, interests and stages of development. This is the initial opportunity for parents to identify any needs with their key person so we can begin to plan for and put things in place to support your child.

**How will staff support the child?**

We have a nursery SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator) that has been trained through the local authority and Whitchurch Under Fives to support the key person, child and families to ensure the child’s individual needs are met.

We have robust policies and procedures in place which are reviewed regularly ensuring our resources and environments are suitable and accessible for all.

The SENCO will work closely with the key person to differentiate resources, experiences and activities to support the child.

The Pre-School SENCO will work with the key person to provide personal plans for each individual child based around their abilities and interests.

The SENCO will liaise with other professionals (with the parents’ consent) such as Early Years Portage and Inclusion Team, Speech and Language Therapists and Health Visitors to gain further advise in supporting each individual child.  The SENCO and the key person will work collaboratively to ensure that these targets and strategies are implemented.

The plans and activities will be reviewed by the key person, SENCO and the parents regularly to update plans and provide support for all children.

**How are parents / carers included in the child’s education and curriculum?**

Parent’s communication is valued, and the key person will work together with the parents to ensure that every child’s learning is supported.

At initial settling in sessions the parent/ carers will work with the key person to settle the child into Pre-School. Throughout this time the key person will complete the information sheet to understand the child’s individual routines, needs, interests and abilities.

 The parents are encouraged to work together with the key person completing observations and activities for home to keep us informed of new interests so that this can be incorporated in the activities that are planned for that child.

Parents/carers will be invited to attend regular meetings to review the child’s progress.
Every child has their own learning diary that parents can view at any time. Parents are encouraged to add their views and comments and labels from home.

**How accessible are the environments?**

If the family has English as an additional language, they will be encouraged to share key words in their home language for the key person and other team members to be able to communicate with their child.

Whitchurch Under Fives Pre-School is mainly based on one level as we are in a bungalow, we have a small mezzanine level in our home room and a crawl space above the ball pond in our ball pond room(unfortunately our ball pond is closed at the moment due to COVID 19 and strict cleaning regime we carry out) while our ball pond which has black out blinds is currently out of use, we can support children with sensory overload, by using our dark den for when quieter times are needed. We have a graduate floor, leading into our main door entrance for easy access.

**Bristol Local Offer for Children with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND)
(accessible ONLY in England)**

bristol.gov.uk/localoffer

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