



Equal Opportunities Policy

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Little Dreams Nursery meets the needs of its customers and potential customers by ensuring equal access to the setting regardless of individual circumstances.

The Nursery is aware that social and cultural circumstances can disadvantage certain groups in society. We also recognise that there is direct and indirect discrimination that can affect assessment for childcare places, recruitment, promotion and training opportunities. Little Dreams Nursery is committed to equal opportunities to meet the needs of the families that we work with, the staff that we employ and the community in which we are based through enhancing awareness and understanding of others.

Who is responsible?

All members of staff have a responsibility to ensure that their own practice reflects the policies and procedures of Little Dreams Nursery. In addition, all members of staff have a responsibility to identify their own training needs that may occur when working with children, young people and families.

The Manager / Director has a responsibility to ensure that all practices in the nursery adhere to this policy and the inclusion policy. The Manager / Director also has a responsibility to ensure that where training needs have been identified, indirectly or indirectly, all members of staff have an opportunity to have these needs met.

How will the policy be implemented?

Staff

Recruitment of staff will be carried out using job descriptions, person specifications and specific criteria based on professional, personal and experiential skills.

Little Dreams Nursery aims to ensure that all staff can attend training events to ensure that there is respect and understanding of each child's customs and culture.

Staff will use diplomacy and tact when implementing this policy.

Recruitment and Training

Little Dreams Nursery is committed to ensuring that candidates for employment and existing members of staff are not discriminated against on any grounds, including:

- Gender
- Race
- Nationality
- Colour
- Ethnicity
- Disability

- Marital status
- Sexuality
- Responsibility for dependants
- Age
- Religious belief
- Work pattern

This commitment applies to all aspects of employment, including:

- Recruitment and selection, including advertisements, job descriptions, interviews, and selection procedures
- Training
- Promotion and development of career opportunities
- Terms and conditions of employment and access to employment-related facilities and benefits
- Grievance handling and the application of disciplinary procedures
- Selection for redundancy

Little Dreams Nursery is committed to anti-discriminatory practice, and it is the responsibility of the management to ensure this policy is maintained. Where problems or complaints arise, the manager will ensure that a full investigation takes place and that any necessary follow-up action is taken; this may include initiating disciplinary action where appropriate.

Racism and Sexism

Little Dreams Nursery is committed to developing awareness within the setting of the needs of those who face discrimination and the effects of discrimination on society. Thus, racist and sexist comments are dealt with sensitively and tactfully so that positive discussion promotes understanding.

Little Dreams Nursery understands that different people will have different attitudes regarding racism and sexism and different understandings of what constitutes a racist or sexist action or comment. All members of staff will use their own informed judgement in deciding the way any situations are dealt with. If a member of staff is unsure as to the way they should deal with a situation, they should report the issue to the manager, who will advise them on the action that should be taken.

Little Dreams Nursery believes that members of staff should act as positive role models for the children, therefore if a member of staff is concerned that colleagues are behaving unacceptably regarding racism or sexism this should be reported to the manager who will deal with the issue through the appropriate channels, members of staff should note that Little Dreams Nursery operates a zero tolerance policy on discriminatory behaviour, any member of staff who behaves in a discriminatory manner may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Sexual Harassment

Little Dreams Nursery believes that all employees are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect whilst at work and when representing the setting in any capacity outside of the setting. As such, Little Dreams Nursery will not tolerate the sexual harassment of one employee by another. For this policy, sexual harassment is defined as "unwanted conduct directed towards an employee by a fellow employee which is of a sexual nature, or which is based on the person's gender, and which is regarded as unwelcome and offensive by the recipient." This may include, but is not limited to:

- Unwanted Physical Contact
- Unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, suggestions or pressure to participate in social activity outside work, where it has been made clear this is not welcome
- Conduct which is intimidating, physically or verbally abusive, including the display of explicit material, the use of sexually explicit humour and comments of a sexual nature, whether directed specifically at any individual or not.
- Suggestions that sexual favours may further an employee's career or that refusal may hinder it.

Little Dreams Nursery regards sexual harassment as a form of intimidation, which has the effect of insulting and demeaning the employee against whom it is directed and is therefore unacceptable. All complaints will be dealt with by the manager or Nursery Director if appropriate, who will assess the complaint and agree on the action to be taken. If the complaint relates to the manager, the member of staff should discuss with the Nursery Director.