**Special Education Needs Policy**

At Pegasus Childcare Centre we do anything we can to help and support all children and families that attend our setting and we are committed to making our setting inclusive and accessible to all children and to making sure that children are able to reach their full potential.

As a provision that is registered to receive Early Years Entitlement (EYE) our policy is in partnership with the Early Years Consultant for Inclusion, Learning and Development.

We have regard for the Special Educational Needs (SEN) code of practice on the early identification and assessment of children with special educational needs. We have adopted the Early Years Action Plus model as outlined in the SEN code of practice.

**Definition of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN):**

*“A child has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them”*

**A child has a learning difficulty if they:**

*Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age*

*OR Have a disability which prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age*

*OR are under five and fall within either of the two definitions above or would do if special educational provision was not made for that child.*

**Our Aims**

We aim to foster an environment where all children are:

* Seen as children first
* Fully accepted and involved in all activities
* Encouraged and enabled to be as independent as possible
* Respected when care is of a private nature

In order to meet the needs of all children, including those with SEN, we consider the following -

* Access
* Activities - planning and differentiating these
* Staffing levels - making sure these are adequate to meet a child’s needs
* Training staff
* Resources and equipment
* Challenging stereotypes and promoting positive attitudes amongst all children and staff
* Individual programmes, monitoring of progress and record keeping

Pegasus Childcare Centre will endeavour to ensure that all children are treated with equal respect and encouraged to take part in the activities that are provided. We will assess the specific needs of every child and take the relevant steps to adapt our facilities and activities to meet the needs of everyone.

Where a member of staff has concerns about the development of a child in one or more areas, this will be discussed with the child’s parents/carers in order to decide on the best way to meet the child’s current needs. If appropriate an individual programme may be set up for the child, which will be reviewed on a regular basis with parents/carers.

**Pegasus Childcare Centre will ensure that:**

* The environment is suitable for disabled children and those with SEN
* Staffing arrangements meet the needs of individual children
* Our written policy is available to parents/carers and is consistent with current legislation
* Children with special education needs and disabilities have equality of access to facilities, activities and opportunities
* Regular liaison takes place with parents/carers and other professional about the need for special equipment/services for children

**Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCo)**

We have named a Special Education Needs Coordinator and this person(s) is/are responsible for monitoring the needs and progress of children with SEN. The SENCo(s) will ensure that liaison takes place with parents/carers and with appropriate professionals as well as ensuring that the setting is up to date with current legislation and practice.

Our named SENCo(s) is/are:

Paige Shackleton

Emma Thornalley

The SENCo(s) is/are responsible for:

* Ensuring that staff members are aware of the procedure if they have a concern about a child
* Attending appropriate training and sharing this with the staff group
* Coordinating the provision for children with SEN within the setting

**Admissions arrangements**

* All children are admitted to the setting following discussions with parents/carers
* We will aim to allocate a key person quickly to help build a good relationship between home and setting
* parents/carers of children with SEN will be invited to any discussion involving their child. They will be kept informed of any and all developments at te setting and will have regular meetings
* We will provide families with support and guidance and give appropriate literature and phone numbers for support groups where requested/wanted
* We will work in partnership with parents/carers and other outside professionals to offer the best support and help for the child involved.
* Confidentiality will be maintained at all times and information about the child will be kept secure
* We will work to provide effective transition.

Other policies that support this policy are transition policy, Equal Opportunities policy, Aims and Object Policy,  intimate care policy and partnership with parents policy.

***This Policy and Procedure has been adopted by Pegasus Childcare Centre***

**Signatures on behalf if the setting by:**

…………,……………………………… **Chairperson**

…………Paige Shackleton……………………. **Manager**

…………Emma Thornalley……………………. **Deputy Manager**

**Date of Implementation** - September 2017  **Date  Reviewed**- September 2019   **Date Reviewed and updated** -September 21

**Date Reviewed** - ……………………………                 **Date Reviewed** - …………………