

SEND Support

Within the Little Caterpillar Room, we promote an inclusive approach to supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We provide a range of opportunities and experiences that ensure every child feels valued, included, and supported. We also celebrate diversity by helping our mainstream children develop an understanding of different needs and recognising that children learn and develop in different ways.

Supporting Speech and Language Development

We support speech and language through a variety of approaches:

- Following the child's lead during play and providing language-rich interactions and experiences.
- Encouraging communication through a range of methods, including visual prompts, communication boards, simple language, and other alternative communication tools tailored to individual needs.
- Integrating children with SEND alongside their peers, allowing them to observe, hear, and engage in language-rich social interactions.

Supporting Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing

We understand that behaviour is a form of communication and support children by:

- Providing access to a sensory room, offering a calm and safe space where children can regulate their emotions and unwind when needed.
- Recognising and responding to the underlying reasons behind behaviours.
- Using positive redirection strategies and consistent boundaries to support appropriate behaviour.
- Working closely with external professionals and agencies to implement effective strategies for children with behavioural needs.

Additional Support Strategies

To further support children's development, we:

- Provide attention-building activities such as Attention Bucket sessions, tickle tunnels, music activities, and sensory exploration experiences.
- Offer enhanced support through smaller adult-to-child ratios, such as 1:2 or 1:4, when additional individualised care is required.
- Encourage and support all children to participate in daily routines, including circle time and group activities.

- Work closely with external professionals, following their advice and recommendations to promote each child's development and progress.
- Implement personalised support plans, risk assessments, and care plans to ensure children's individual needs are met effectively.

Above all, we strive to provide a true "home away from home" environment for every child. We recognise and respect each child's unique needs, routines, and preferences, offering nurturing one-to-one support, comfort, and reassurance whenever needed to help them feel safe, valued, and able to thrive.

