

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

At Little Acorns, we believe that every child, individual, and family should have equal access to our kindergarten’s activities, regardless of gender, class, family status, means, disability or special need, ethnic origin, culture, religion, or belief. Our setting is committed to inclusivity and welcomes all children, families, and adults dedicated to their education and care.

To achieve this, we work in partnership with parents, fostering strong relationships and providing families with confidence in the support we offer.

We are committed to ensuring children:

* Achieve the best possible educational and developmental outcomes.
* Develop into confident young learners, able to express their views and prepare for their transition into formal education.

**Our Approach**

We will:

* Assess each child during their first two weeks, regardless of age, to establish a starting point for their learning journey.
* Identify potential areas of concern with support from the SENCO, focusing on:
	+ Communication and interaction
	+ Cognition and learning
	+ Social, emotional, and mental health
	+ Sensory and/or physical needs
* Collaborate with parents to discuss findings, recognise strengths, and develop a tailored support plan.
* If concerns arise, seek guidance from the Buckinghamshire Early Years Team or other professionals, with parental consent.
* Make reasonable adjustments and allocate appropriate staffing to ensure children’s safety, wellbeing, and success.

**Support Before Entry**

If a child requires additional support before joining, we will:

* Arrange a planning meeting with parents, the Key Person, SENCO, and any professionals involved.
* Organise additional settling in sessions to help the child adjust before their official start date.
* Welcome professionals into the setting and implement recommended strategies where possible.

**Ongoing Monitoring & Funding**

Observation and assessment are reviewed regularly, at a minimum each half-term, to ensure children make effective progress. Meetings will be held with parents, the SENCO, and the Key Person to update strategies based on professional advice.

If needed, the setting will seek additional funding to enhance support and resources. Should further intervention be necessary, an EHCP request will be submitted to the SEN Team atBuckinghamshireCouncil for review.

**Staff Training & Resources**

Our team is dedicated to delivering the highest quality support for children with additional needs. Staff undergo regular training to stay up to date with best practices in early years education, special educational needs (SEN), and inclusive teaching strategies. We continually review and invest in specialist resources to ensure all children can access learning in a way that suits their individual needs. From adaptive materials to targeted interventions, we strive to provide the most effective and inclusive environment for every child.