

## OUR **LOCAL OFFER** FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The purpose of a local offer is to enable parents and carers to see clearly what services are available for children who have special educational needs and /or disabilities (SEND) in their area and how to access them. The following questions and answers form our local offer and shows how we provide for children with SEND.

**We consider ourselves to be a fully inclusive setting, creating a safe, secure and happy environment that is suitable for all children; including those with SEND.**

### 1. How does Rainbow know if young children need extra help and what our parents/carers should do if they think their child may have SEND

When your child starts Rainbow, he/she will be allocated a Key Person who will build a warm and nurturing relationship with your child and yourself. Through observing, assessing and planning next steps, the Key Person may identify any special educational needs your child may have.

If you have concerns about your child, you should initially speak to your child's Key Person. At a later date you may wish to speak with the Supervisor (Mrs. Monica Burdett) or SENCO (Special Educational Needs Officer) (Mrs. Laura Smith-Adams) who will also be able to help you.

### 2. How our setting supports young children with SEND

Every child has their own Key Person who will work with your child and you. They will make next steps plans for your child, based on your child's interests which they will share with you. In addition, the Senco will also offer support and advice to the Key Person and will also liaise with other professionals (with parental permission).

We are committed to working in partnership with Parent/Carers and involve you in the planning for your child.

Reports from health care professionals, such as health visitors, speech and language therapists, will also identify your child's individual needs. We welcome parents and professionals sharing these reports in order to plan appropriately to meet these needs. Our SENCO may also write a Provision map to support your child's development and progress.

### 3. How our setting creates learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND

At Rainbow every child is treated as an individual; therefore, we plan for your child's development based on observations of your child and photographic evidence gained for their Learning Journal. The environment your child plays in will be appropriate for their needs and additional support/resources, where possible will be supplied.

### 4. How Rainbow works in partnership with parents/carers

A strong relationship between the setting and Parents is important to Rainbow. Therefore, we operate an 'open house' policy and are always available to spend time with parents to discuss their child's progress and development, and to help you support your child at home.

We direct parents to the Local Authority Children Centres. We also work closely with other professionals who may also offer support to parents e.g., Good Beginnings.

If your child has not had a 2-year check then this will be done within the first few months of them joining Rainbow.

Your child's Learning Journal is created through our online provider, Kinderly. You will receive weekly observations from your child's Key Person. You can also use Kinderly to share information and photos from home. Should you have any questions or concerns you can make an appointment with your child's Key Person.

Support Plans are reviewed termly with parents and the SENCO.

For parents who have work commitments and are not the primary carers, Rainbow will keep you informed via emails, letters, private Facebook group and by text or WhatsApp.

Newsletters are emailed each week to parents and we also have a closed

parent Facebook page (Parents of Rainbow) where you will be invited to join and a public Facebook group which you can follow.

Information for parents is also displayed in the foyer area.

#### 5. How our setting supports the wellbeing of young children with SEND

Before your child joins Rainbow, you and he/she will be invited in for a “taster session,” so that you can familiarise yourselves with the setting.

This will give you a chance to talk about any medical, personal and physical needs your child may have. If your child has any medical needs, we shall make enquiries into any special training needed by the staff; (please refer to our Administering Medicines policy). Staff provide personal care and are sensitive towards the needs of nappy changing and toileting (please refer to our Nappy Changing policy)

Health and Safety/Risks assessments are carried out daily including the outside play area. All our toys and equipment are checked to ensure they are in good working order. Our Health and Safety Officer is Mrs. S Smith.

We have a positive approach to supporting behaviour. We will always discuss any behaviour concerns with you in order to maintain a consistent approach between home and the setting (please refer to our Promoting Positive Behaviour policy). Our Behaviour Officer is Mrs. M. Burdett.

#### 6. Staff training and experience in supporting young children with SEND

Rainbow Preschool is not a specialist preschool, but we pride ourselves on our care; treating each child as a unique individual and differentiating activities for each one where necessary.

The staff has many years experience working with Early Years -The Supervisor and Deputy alone have 50+ years experience between them and the SENCO has 20 years.

We have worked with children on the Autistic Spectrum, Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, Global Delay and Speech and Language difficulties.

We have welcomed and worked with outside professionals; Speech Therapists, Specialist Teachers, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Family Support key workers.

Staff has Safeguarding and First Aid training.

We have experience and a system in place to support children with allergies.

### 7. Specialist services and expertise accessed by Rainbow.

The Staff continually update their training; they have attended Speech, Language and Communication training, Promoting Positive Behaviour training, Autism training and bespoke training run by the Local Authority and other online training providers.

Our Senco has attained a Level 1 in Makaton and is the lead in our Talk Books sessions which are aimed at helping children develop their speech & language and attention & listening

### 8. How our setting includes young children with SEND in community-based activities and outings

All children are welcome to attend trips. A risk assessment is carried out and the trip is discussed with the parent to identify any particular needs. We will ensure that an extra member of staff is present to support your child.

A mobile phone and first aid kit are always taken and any medication your child requires e.g., inhaler.

### 9. Our accessible environment

Parking is available in the Asda car park and a short walk across the Square to Chelmer Village Hall where we are based.

The main hall is a large and spacious area, suitable for wheel chair access. We also have the use of a disabled toilet. The outside play area is flat and is made secure with lockable gates.

We use visual timetables to support routines. We have signs and posters which are inclusive and depict positive behaviour. Our ENCO has access to Dual

Language books, which are shared with the families of children with English as Additional Language to aide communication.

For families whose first language is not English you can nominate a representative who speaks English.

Where possible we will work with the parents to obtain equipment and resources to support their child with SEND.

Our ENCO (Equality named Co-Ordinator) is Mrs. S Parker

Additional funding may be obtained by the setting to help us meet your child's needs.

Regular Risk assessments are carried out to ensure our environment is safe and secure.

#### 10. How our setting prepares and supports young children with SEND when joining the setting and when transferring to another setting or school

You and your child will be invited into Rainbow to meet the staff and discuss any concerns that you may have regarding your child or the preschool. The SENCO will also be available to talk to.

Should your child attend another setting we will obtain your permission to share information with them regarding your child's development.

We have good relations with both our feeder schools, Barnes Farm and Chancellor Park. The Head Teachers and Early Years team visit us towards the end of the school year; to get to know the children who will be going to their schools. Both schools also invite the children in for taster days and to meet their new teacher.

#### 11. How our setting organises its resources to meet the needs of young children with SEND

As we are a charitable organisation, funds are limited.

We work very closely with outside professionals and at times we have been provided with specialist equipment and resources.

Where possible, staff will attend training which is tailored to a child with SEND.

## 12. How we decide on appropriate support for young children with SEND

Using reports and information you have shared with us during your first visit at Rainbow, the Supervisor and SENCO will then discuss your child's individual needs. The information gathered will then be shared with your child's Key Person.

At this stage we will then decide what extra provision we may need to put in place before your child starts at Rainbow.

Once your child has settled with us, the Key Person will then start the observation process required by the Birth to 5 Matters, which include taking photographs to compile their Learning Journal. They may also identify any additional needs.

At a later stage a Support Plan for your child will be put in place and will be reviewed on a termly basis; which you will be involved with throughout the whole process.

We hold termly Staff meetings to ensure everyone working with your child knows your child's strengths and needs, and how to support them.

## 13. How Rainbow involves all parents /carers in our setting

As Rainbow is a Parent run Pre-School, our committee is made up of parents whose children attend the setting. We encourage parents to take an active part by joining the committee.

You are involved in identifying needs, information sharing, identifying targets and next steps to focus on at home and in the setting and reviewing progress towards these targets.

We encourage parents to be a parent helper for a session where you play with the children and get to know the staff and the preschool.

We operate an open house policy and are always happy to chat with you regarding any concerns you may have.

We welcome any ideas/suggestions that you may have to enhance the successful running of the preschool.

The use of a yearly survey helps the setting to evaluate our provision in meeting the needs of you and your children.

#### 14. Who to can contact for further information?

More detailed information is available in our policies, specifically our “Promoting Positive Behaviour”, “Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality”, “Supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities” and “Working in Partnership with other Agencies”. All our policies can be found on the Pre-school web site.

If you wish to discuss your child prior to starting Rainbow, you need to contact either the Supervisor- Monica Burdett or the Senco - Laura Smith-Adams on

Telephone 07901886488

e-mail: [info@rainbowps.co.uk](mailto:info@rainbowps.co.uk)

To register your child at Rainbow Pre-School please send us an email

The Local Authority’s Local Offer can be found on the Essex County Council website: [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) search engine Local Offer.