

SEND Local Offer

What is SEND?

SEND is an acronym for 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities'.

How does Hillside know if children need extra help and what our parents/carers should do if they think their child may have SEND?

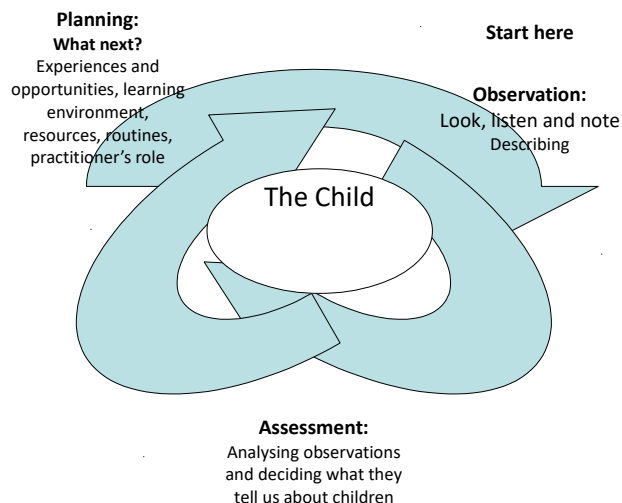
At Hillside children are observed and their development is monitored regularly. The children's needs are met and staff are experienced in assessing and planning next steps for the children. If you have any concerns about your child you should speak to your child's key person, room supervisor, SENDCo or Manager.

How will Hillside support my child?

Every child at Hillside has their own key person and buddy who will work with your child and identify their individual needs. The key person will work with our setting's SENDCo to plan your child's next steps. Our SENDCo will advise staff of activities to use to support your child's development and spend time working alongside the room staff also. If necessary a 'Steps to Success' plan is devised by our SENDCo and shared with the parents/carers.

How does Hillside create learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND?

At Hillside children are treated as individuals and activities are planned in line with children's needs and progress. Room staff plan on a weekly basis; ensuring activities are differentiated according to the children who are in the setting on that day. We implement an observation and assessment process whereby we make regular observations which then feed into our assessment records, then into our planning and the cycle continues. Please see diagram below.



How does Hillside work in partnership with parents/carers?

Hillside will share all development records, assessments and next steps with parents/carers as these are developed and reviewed. Parents/carers will be asked for their comments and feedback on their child's development and identified next steps. Regular consultation evenings are held offering parents/carers the opportunity to come along to the setting and discuss their child's progress with their key person or buddy. At Hillside we operate an 'open door' policy ensuring we are available to spend time with parents/carers to discuss their child's learning and development, celebrate their achievements and offer advice and support. We also take time to arrange meetings with parents/carers to discuss individual needs of children and how together we can meet these needs.

How does Hillside support the wellbeing of young children with SEND?

We have an experienced team at Hillside, including 3 SEND trained staff (1 of which is our lead SENDCo, who oversees all SEND within the setting). Together these staff are able to recognise where extra support may be required and where this support can be gained. Staff are also employed to offer one to one support to children when necessary. The majority of our staff are first aid trained and in instances when prescribed medication needs to be administered then where possible the child's key person or buddy will administer this. Parents/carers will be required to sign our medication form to give us authorisation to administer medication.

Here at Hillside we promote positive behaviour through positive reinforcement and our Behavioural Coordinator supports parents/carers and practitioners with behavioural strategies and advice.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by Hillside?

Hillside has excellent professional relationships with outside agencies and we welcome specialists and other professionals involved with your child's care, to visit your child here at Hillside and share information with practitioners. We have regular contact with our area SENDCo who helps us to support our children with SEND, access to the local Health Visitor, Speech and Language Therapist and Local Children's Centre. We have recently made contact with our local swim school and offer free swimming lessons to our pre-school children.

What training are the staff, supporting children with SEND, had or having?

Our staff have a wealth of experience and training including SEND, SENDCo, promoting positive behaviour, speech and language training, first aid and we work hard to ensure staff have opportunities to continue their professional development. Staff work

together, sharing experiences and offering each other support and advice to ensure they provide the best support for children with SEND.

How does Hillside include young children with SEND in community based activities and outings?

Regular contact with parents/carers helps us to ensure that any activity we undertake is carefully planned for in line with children's individual needs. Staff are competent in completing risk assessments for outings where children's needs are catered for and where necessary additional staff are employed to provide further support. We have recently introduced a more detailed approach to risk assessments which are called 'Risk/Benefit Assessments' and these assess how the benefits of the activity outweigh the risks. These assessments not only take into account the surrounding environment but the children involved in the activity also.

How accessible is our environment?

Our building is fully wheelchair accessible and we have a disabled toilet which can be accessed by both adults and children. We are happy to work with families to access any specialist equipment needed. Staff use simple Makaton signs during circle times and some signs are displayed within the setting.

How does Hillside prepare and support young children with SEND when joining the setting and when transferring to another setting or school?

When joining Hillside children are offered two complimentary plays before their official start date. During these visits Hillside will arrange a meeting with the child's parents/carers to discuss the individual needs of their child and how together we can support them within the setting. When a child leaves our setting to either join another setting or start school, Hillside will liaise with the new setting or school sharing information and strategies to help aid a smooth transition.

How does Hillside organise its resources to meet the needs of young children with SEND?

When necessary additional staff are employed to offer enhanced support (one to one) for children, this person is usually their key person or buddy. Our lead SENDCo regularly spends time with our SEND children organising and carrying out targeted activities and experiences. She will observe and assess the children and feedback relevant information to the child's key person and/or buddy which informs assessment records.

During transition we assess the children's current environment and the environment they will be moving to. The child's needs will determine whether they will remain in the environment they are familiar with for a little longer or whether the new environment needs to be adapted to accommodate them and their needs.

Resources are shared within the setting allowing staff to use a range of equipment suitable for the children in their care.

How do we decide on appropriate support for young children with SEND?

Once your child has registered at Hillside the lead SENDCo and manager will meet with you to discuss your child's individual needs and the appropriate support needed to meet these needs. Hillside will work together with parents/carers and any other professionals involved to write a 'My Steps to Success' indicating identified needs and the steps to success. This will be reviewed regularly by the child's key person and shared with parents/carers.

How does Hillside involve all parents/carers in our setting?

Hillside holds regular parent/carer consultation evenings and we invite parents/carers in for events such as; Yummy Mummy Week and Dishy Daddy Week. Parents/carers are always welcome in the setting to share a story or get involved in messy activities or hold a circle time. We encourage parents/carers feedback via newsletters and surveys and where possible put new ideas and suggestions in place.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you require any further information please contact:

Maxine Talbot - Nursery Manager: 01621 774422 or hillside@hillsideplaycare.co.uk

Or in her absence:

Liz Longley - Officer in Charge
Sophie Perry - Officer in Charge } on the above number or email address.