



Additional Needs Policy

Places for children with Additional Needs are available, provided that the After School Club has the resources to meet the needs of the children and that we can also provide for the efficient care of the other children in the setting.

Parents/Carers must inform the Manager if their child has any special needs, including medical and behavioural issues, or is receiving help such as Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy or has been assessed by the Psychology Service. This information will be used to assess if the needs of the child can be met within the setting and if so to implement a care plan/strategies to support the child. We encourage close liaison between our setting and the home and this is valued and viewed as an important step in meeting the needs of the child. The onus is on the children's parents/carers to make full disclosure of their child's needs and to keep the Afterschool informed about any changes in the children's circumstances, this is done through contacting the manager and/or deputy manager. Sometimes we may feel that a child may have a problem which requires expert help. In this instance we will consult with the parent/carer before making a referral.

Where appropriate, staff will consult with school, including the SENCO or other professionals to seek advice on how best to meet the needs of the child. Consent from parents for this will be sought from parents and is included in the Afterschool Registration Form.

Children with additional needs, like all other children, will be admitted into the group after consultation between parents/carers and the manager provided, the setting can meet the needs of the child and that it is safe to do so. If other childcare professionals are already involved with the family, any relevant information will be used, to ensure consistency of care. We are committed to the inclusion of children and parents/carers within our setting and will seek resources and advice to make the relationships successful. We will therefore:

- Endeavour to obtain suitable equipment to enable those with disabilities to be correctly supported and enabling them to make full use of activities.
- Ensure all children have full access to the play opportunities offered within the setting.
- Select resources which portray positive images of people with disabilities.
- Welcome the opportunity to work and liaise with other professionals in order to meet the child's specific needs.
- Monitor and record children's progress on an individual basis to ensure planning is appropriate to age and stage of development.
- Ensure that all staff working with the children have appropriate skills and training.