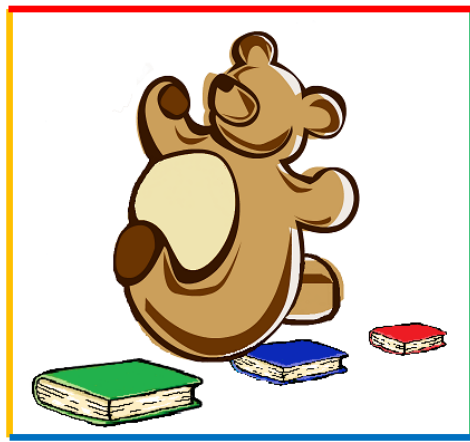


ADMISSIONS POLICY AND NURSERY OPERATIONAL PLAN



Stepping Stones

Updated: June 2022

Admissions Policy

At Stepping Stones Nursery we care for up to 50 children at any one time between the ages of 3 months and 5 years.

The numbers and ages of children admitted to the nursery comply with the legal space requirements set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). When considering admissions we are mindful of staff: child ratios and the facilities available at the nursery.

The nursery use the following admission criteria, which is applied in the following order of priority:

1. Looked after children
2. A child known by the local authority to have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) and whose needs can be best met at the preferred nursery
3. A vulnerable child with either a Child Protection or a Child in Need Plan, or in receipt of other local authority support
4. Children who have siblings who are already with us
5. Children whose parents live within the area.

A child requiring a full-time place may have preference over one requiring a part-time place. This is dependent upon work commitments, occupancy and room availability. We operate a waiting list and places are offered on an availability basis.

We operate an inclusion and equality policy and ensure that all children have access to nursery places and services irrespective of their gender, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation of parents.

Prior to a child attending nursery, parents/carers must complete and sign a contract and registration form. These forms provide the nursery with personal details relating to the child. For example, name, date of birth, address, emergency contact details, parental responsibilities, dietary requirements, collection arrangements, fees and sessions, contact details for parents, doctor's contact details, health visitor contact details, allergies, parental consent and vaccinations etc.

Providers eligible to provide government funded places for early education

All settings registered to accept government funding (detailed in the code of practice) must offer free places for two/three to five year olds for early learning sessions specified by the local authority. At Stepping Stones Nursery we currently provide funded places for children based on availability and this varies. These places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and can be booked a term in advance. We only currently offer 15 hours free funding at our setting but this can be shared with another setting to make up 30 hours should you have the entitlement.

All funded sessions are now in line with the flexible arrangement as specified by the Government. When you register your child for their funded place, we will discuss your needs and, as far as possible with availability and staffing arrangements, we will accommodate your wishes. We reserve the right to limit and/or have specific funded sessions, according to our business requirements.

Nursery Operational Plan

At Stepping Stones Nursery we provide quality affordable childcare for the families in and around the local community. Quality childcare brings not only huge benefits for the children but also benefits for the whole community, enabling parents* to start and/or return to work, combine employment with family life and enabling employers to retain and recruit employees from the local community.

We want parents to feel confident about the quality of care that is provided for their child in order for them to have no concerns for their child's health, welfare and early learning. We continuously reflect on the quality we provide and further develop our practice in line with policy, research, best practice and internal/external feedback. We ensure we update our business/action plan at least annually and combine this information.

We welcome parent's opinions and contributions to the quality improvement process and actively seek feedback through questionnaires, parents' evenings and informal discussion, which is recorded.

In order for our nursery to run effectively and efficiently serve local community needs, it is important that we have an operational plan that is implemented, reviewed and revised on a regular basis. This plan is a blueprint for managing the nursery. It describes how the nursery is run and what type of service is provided. It describes the nursery service, the structure of the nursery, who is responsible and guidance on practices and procedures.

The plan is used by the nursery manager, staff, parents and outside agencies as a reference tool for general day-to-day practice and a tool against which to assess the quality of the service provided. We review this policy annually, using reflective practice, and make and implement any necessary changes following a review.

* For the purpose of this publication the term 'parents' will be used to describe all types of primary caregivers, such as biological and adoptive parents, foster carers and guardians.

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