

**Early Help /Local Offer Policy**

*Please also see our SEND policy*

This policy has been created with regard to:

* The SEND Code of Practice 2015
* Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3)
* Equality Act 2010
* Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
* Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021

**Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice.**

The Nursery has regard to the statutory guidance set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice (DfE 2015) to identify, assess and make provision for children’s special educational needs.

At Upper Knapp Farm Day Nursery, we use the SEND Code of Practice (2015) definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability:

*A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.*

*A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:*

* *has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or*
* *has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.*

**Statement of Intent**

At Upper Knapp Farm Day Nursery, we are committed to working with parents/carers in order to meet their child's individual needs and to help them develop to their full potential. When sharing information with parents about Early Help or the Graduated Pathway we will signpost them to the Family Information Service and glosfamiliesdirectory where they may be able to find further support and advice.

Angela Barnes and Amy Alexander who are the Nursery Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator’s (SENDCo) will be able to give you more information on these services on request.

**What is Early Help/Local Offer**

The Family Information Service provides a free confidential advice line which offers guidance and emotional support on any aspect of parenting and family life. The Family Information Service can offer support for parents/carers, children who have an additional need and practitioners. This includes Early Help which can give advice and guidance ensuring the right support is found as soon as a problem arises or before it gets worse. You can contact them on familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01452 427362. From this website you may be directed to the glosfamiliesdirectory offering the 'Local Offer'. They also have a Facebook page which can be found by searching the Family Information Service Gloucestershire.

**What is the Local Offer**

Gloucestershire County Council has a legal duty to publish a 'Local Offer’ that lists all the activities, opportunities and support services available to **families who have disabled children and young people aged up to 25.** It must include information about education, health and care provision as well as training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This information can be found at www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk

The Family Information Service produce termly newsletters which we share with the parents via our First Steps system.

Please see attached some information documents from the Family Information Service.

This policy was adopted in March 2021 by Angela Barnes.

Reviewed August 2021 by Angela Barnes – changes made for EYFS 2021

Reviewed March 2022 by Angela Barnes – changes made

Reviewed March 2023 by Angela Barnes – changes made

Date to be reviewed: March 2024

Signed by L McCreight, Owner