

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Our Ethos

At Mana Childcare, we believe every child is unique, capable and deserving of an environment where they feel safe, valued and understood. Inspired by the Danish concept of *Hygge*, we create a calm, nurturing atmosphere where children develop confidence through secure relationships, play and meaningful experiences.

We celebrate diversity and recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. Our aim is to remove barriers to learning, ensuring every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

We believe that behaviour is communication. Rather than focusing on rewards or punishments, we take time to understand each child's individual needs, emotions and experiences.

Our Commitment

Mana Childcare is committed to:

- Providing an inclusive environment where every child belongs.
- Identifying additional needs as early as possible.
- Working closely with parents, carers and professionals.
- Making reasonable adjustments to support children's participation.
- Respecting children's voices and recognising their strengths.
- Following the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Our SENDCo

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) is responsible for coordinating support for children with additional needs.

SENDCo: [Insert Name]

The SENDCo will:

- Work alongside families to identify children's individual needs.
- Liaise with health visitors, speech and language therapists and other professionals where appropriate.
- Develop and review support plans.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate guidance and training.
- Monitor children's progress and wellbeing.

Our Approach to Supporting Children

Children learn best when they feel emotionally secure.

At Mana Childcare we use a relationship-based approach built on warmth, patience and trust.

We do not use:

- Reward charts
- Sticker charts to control behaviour
- Time out
- Public sanctions or shaming

Instead we:

- Talk through feelings with children.
- Help children name and understand emotions.
- Offer comfort and reassurance when children become overwhelmed.
- Model kindness, empathy and respectful communication.
- Help children find solutions to problems together.
- Use co-regulation before expecting self-regulation.
- Recognise that challenging behaviour often communicates an unmet need.

We understand that some children need additional sensory support, movement breaks, visual resources or quieter spaces. These adjustments are viewed as meeting individual needs rather than giving special treatment.

Working in Partnership with Families

Parents know their children best.

We believe positive partnerships with families are essential in supporting children with SEND.

We will:

- Listen carefully to parents' concerns.
- Share observations honestly and sensitively.
- Agree realistic next steps together.
- Review progress regularly.
- Respect confidentiality.

Families will always be involved in decisions affecting their child.

Graduated Approach

Where a child requires additional support, Mana Childcare follows the Assess – Plan – Do – Review process.

This involves:

Assess

- Observing the child's strengths and needs.
- Gathering information from parents and professionals.

Plan

- Agreeing clear outcomes.
- Identifying strategies and adjustments.

Do

- Implementing the agreed support consistently.

Review

- Evaluating progress with parents.
- Updating support where necessary.

Working with Other Professionals

With parental consent, we may work alongside:

- Health Visitors
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Educational Psychologists
- Specialist Early Years Inclusion Teams
- Paediatricians
- Portage Services

Our aim is to ensure children receive coordinated support tailored to their individual needs.

Inclusive Practice

Children with SEND are included in all aspects of nursery life wherever possible.

We adapt:

- Activities
- Resources
- The learning environment
- Communication methods
- Routines

to ensure every child can participate meaningfully.

Emotional Wellbeing

A child's emotional wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

Our Hygge-inspired environment provides:

- Calm, cosy spaces for quiet reflection.
- Predictable routines that promote security.
- Natural resources and open-ended play.
- Opportunities for rest as well as exploration.
- Strong, nurturing relationships with familiar adults.

Children are supported to express feelings safely and confidently, knowing that every emotion is accepted even when certain behaviours need guidance.

Monitoring Progress

Progress is monitored through:

- **Daily observations.**
- **Ongoing assessment.**
- **Parent discussions.**
- **Individual support plans where appropriate.**
- **Regular reviews with professionals.**

Success is measured not only through developmental milestones but also through confidence, independence, emotional wellbeing and participation.

Confidentiality

Information regarding children's additional needs is treated confidentially and shared only with those directly involved in supporting the child, with parental consent unless safeguarding concerns require otherwise.