**SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY (S.E.N.D) POLICY/PRACTICE**

At Baby Bears Day Care we follow the commitment stated in the Early Years Foundation Stage “1.2 Inclusive Practice: the diversity of individuals and communities is valued and respected. No child or family is discriminated against”.

It is our intention to support children with special educational needs and disability (S.E.N.D) and their families and assist them in finding the appropriate care and support.

Our programme of initial baseline assessment, observation and evaluation on all children and small key person groups allow us to identify areas of concern and improvement. We also plan to meet the child’s individual needs.

We meet the needs of the individual children by knowing that each child is “Unique”. When concerns are raised about a child, we first adapt our practice, i.e., environment, to suit specific individuals to identify if this as an impact on the concerns.

If improvements are achieved with strategies that have been put in place they are continued for this individual child.

After an initial assessment if there are no improvements made, we arrange a meeting with the child’s parents/carers to discuss further support from outside agencies such as the area SENCO. During this time a signature from parents/carers are required. We also have agencies come into the nursery that the parents/carers have already arranged. We work closely with the parent/carer and the agencies to get the best outcome for the child.

Once permission has been given from the parent/carer a meeting with the area SENCO will be made with the nurseries SENCO (Hannah Parker) and the General Manager (Chelsea Cunningham). The area SENCO will then meet the child and carry out an initial assessment alongside their keyworker and the SENCO. They will then decide which route is most suitable for the child’s needs. These are the following:

**Graduated Approach** this SEN support consists of four elements; Assess, Plan, Do and Review.

**Involvement of Specialists** this is where specialist may be required to help a child’s progress, i.e., speech and language therapists and specialist teachers.

**Education Health and Care Needs Assessment and Plans (EHC)** this is where the local authority will carry out and assessment in which they will seek information from the early years setting, along with advice from health and social care and from the child’s parents/carers.

At Baby Bears Day Care we will implement any recommendations set by the area Inclusion Co-ordinator (INCO) and gather any further information that we may require to complete an Individualised Education Program (IEP).

All staff throughout the setting are made aware of the SEND code of practice and we seek SEND training for staff to attend when necessary. We will endeavour to confer with the parents/carers and other involved professional parties at all times.

The SEND Coordinator for Baby Bears Day Care is Hannah Parker:

At Baby Bears Day Care we:

* Observe and assess the individual child’s needs
* Plan an agree strategy/ programme
* Plan an agree period of assessment
* Hold inter agency meetings within the nursery to discuss future plans.

The following professionals are available to give added support and guidance for both the setting and for parents there are:

* The area SENCO (Inclusion team)
* Health Visitors
* General Practitioner
* Educational Psychologist
* Physiotherapist
* Speech and Language Therapist
* Play Therapists