

Additional/Special Needs Policy
NMS Regulation Standard 4

Mes Bach (Little Acorns) is committed to welcoming and including children with additional/special needs (educational, emotional, physical or behavioural) as full and valued members of our groups supporting them and involving them equally. We do however assess each case individually to ensure that the child's care requirements are met as fully as possible. We are also committed to working within the '*Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales (2002)*, and the '*Equality Act 2010*' on the Identification, Assessment and Education of Children with Special Educational Needs.

We do this by:

- Welcoming and providing support as needed to staff, students and volunteers, parents/carers and visitors who have additional/special needs.
- Welcoming children with additional/special needs who may be admitted (in line with our admissions policy) after full consultation with parents/carers, staff, referral scheme co-ordinators and any other relevant agency workers involved.
- Informing parents/carers of relevant health and safety procedures prior to admission of a child, and by undertaking risk assessments as needed to ensure the best interests of the child are met.
- Giving consideration to disabilities and individual needs when arranging meetings, outings and events, and recording and taking action on any recommendations and decisions made.
- Operating an effective medication policy.
- Where staff members identify special needs of a child, they will work with parents/carers to help them recognise the needs and seek additional support from other agencies.
- We may request additional assistance via referral schemes for 1:1 support, assistance and training.
- We will provide a range of activities and opportunities covering all areas of learning, where all children, including those with special needs can interact, learn about each other and form relationships.
- Including children with additional/special needs and in routine activities, adapting our resources to meet the specific needs of the child.
- We will treat all children equally while respecting their individual needs and abilities.
- We have an inclusive philosophy and will not isolate children with special needs. The individual needs of children will be considered when programme planning and the purchase of toys and other equipment takes place.
- Records of the child's progress will be maintained and reviewed regularly. Parental permission will be obtained before records are released on admission to any agency.
- Full co-operation will be given to all appropriate agencies i.e. therapists, health visitors, portage workers etc, in order to meet the needs of each child, (subject to parental permission).
- The privacy of all children will be maintained at all times-particularly when intimate care is being provided.
- We will endeavour to arrange for staff to attend relevant training to help meet the needs of children with additional/special needs. This will form part of the Training Review.
- Staff, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors who have additional/special needs will be welcomed and supported in line with our Equal Opportunities policy with the needs of the children being paramount at all times.

This policy was adopted by: Mes Bach Pre school	Date: July 2019
To be reviewed: July 2020	Signed: