

LOCAL OFFER : BARBICAN PLAYGROUP

How does the early years setting know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs or disabilities?

Our provision for children with SEND takes many forms. We aim to make all SEND provision appropriate for each individual child and their unique needs.

Initially we work in partnership with parents and carers, then other agencies and professionals to identify what provision is appropriate for particular children with SEND.

This would enable a more specific intervention to be provided, either for a whole class, small group or 1-1 basis to target the development of a particular skill.

How does the Playgroup support children with SEND?

- The Manager, also our Playgroup SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), has been trained through the local authority to support the staff, child and families to ensure that the child's individual needs are met.
- Regular liaison with appropriate agencies (with the parents' consent) such as Early Years Inclusion Officers, Speech and Language Therapists and Health Visitors.
- Where appropriate individual programmes of intervention
- Reasonable adjustments in the playroom

How will both you and I (the parent) know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

How do we, the Playgroup identify and assess children with SEND? A child has a Special Educational Need if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which requires special or different additional provision normally available to pupils of the same age.

All early years practitioners are responsible for identifying pupils with SEN. Always working closely with the SENCO, specific and additional support will be offered to a child whose progress is evaluated as inadequate. Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways and may take into account:

- Closing the attainment gap between the child and peers
- Preventing attainment gap growing wider
- Ensuring access to full curriculum
- Demonstrating improvement in self-help, social or personal skills and
- Demonstrating an improvement in behaviour

What support will there be for my child's overall well being? How will the playgroup communicate with me?

- Daily face-to-face at drop off and picking up time
- Parent meetings twice a year
- Termly review meetings
- Parents surveys

How accessible is the early years setting environment?

The Playgroup is not wheelchair accessible. The Playrooms are accessible only by stairs from the Barbican walkway (Podium) or through the car park below. Due to the size of the Playgroup and the terms of usage of our premises, there are no immediate plans to improve accessibility.

“If the setting were to enrol a child with mobility difficulties or transition difficulties this would prove a challenge and reasonable adjustments and adult support would need to be carefully considered and managed.” (SEND Audit Report March 2016)

Who can I talk to about my child’s difficulties with learning/SEND?

- Playgroup Manager & SENCO
- Keyworker

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the setting?

We are a small setting run by the Manager together with two to three members of staff depending on the numbers attending. The Manager/SENCO has over 35 years of experience educating and working with children between 2 and 5 years old. Specialist services and expertise are accessed through the local authority Children’s Services and appropriately focused training is undertaken by staff as required.

It is important to us that your child develops their independence and that they are as best prepared for the next phase in their education. We believe it is important to facilitate your child through a range of support methods, where possible they are included with you in the decision making. We would also seek implement advice given by specialist services and include it in any individual learning plan.

We would follow our Equal Opportunities/Inclusion Policy and Procedure to ensure that all children are treated equally.

What training have the staff supporting children with SEND had or are having?

- SEND and the Prime Areas
- Early Identification

How are the Playgroup’s resources allocated and matched to children’s special educational needs?

In the Barbican Playgroup we monitor the progress of all children in our childcare from the earliest ages, using the EYFS Learning Outcomes Their progress in Early Years is then tracked on a termly basis to ensure that effective strategies are being used. Where progress is not at an expected level then conversations take place with the relevant staff member working with the individual child and strategies are discussed and alternative approaches considered. All staff are subject to regular observations of practice and supervision.

Qualitative and quantitative evidence may also relate to:

- Emotional Wellbeing of children
- Communication, Speech and Language
- Social Skills
- Behaviour Modification

Parents will receive regular feedback about the interventions and support.

The early years SEND Audit Report (March 2016) notes the following areas of strength

- The setting is very welcoming and partnerships with parents are evident.
- Staff knowledge of child development is strong. This supports them in identifying any concerns if they arise.
- Activities and planning are informed from ongoing formative assessment and observations.

The OFSTED Report (Sept 2015) which was overall 'good' noted the following areas of strength

- Staff build positive relationships with parents and get to know children well. This helps children to feel secure and confident in their environment so they are ready to learn.
- The manager uses effective systems to evaluate the quality of the nursery and identifies strengths and weaknesses. She gains the views of parents, children and staff to put plans in place to make improvements that successfully promote better outcomes for children.
- Children behave extremely well. They learn to communicate effectively with each other to share ideas about their play.
- Staff are secure in their knowledge of how to promote the learning and development of each child. They provide challenging activities that help children to progress well in their learning.

Who can I contact for further information?

Please contact the Barbican Playgroup Manager, Mary Rose Clackson:

- If you are considering whether your child should join the Barbican Playgroup
- If you want to discuss anything about your child, or are worried about any issue regarding your child and how the Barbican Playgroup may assist
- Regarding any other support services who might help provide information and advice

Contact Details are as follows:

Mrs Mary Rose Clackson
Manager
Barbican Playgroup
Levels 01 and 02 Andrewes House
Barbican, London EC2Y 8AX
Tel: 020 7638 2718
Email: maryroseclackson@yahoo.co.uk

The Barbican Playgroup Trustees are also available and happy to answer any additional questions you may have to do with the running of the playgroup.

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The Local Authorities Local Offer is available at

<http://fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk/kb5/cityoflondon/fyi/localoffer.page?familychannel=7>