



The Barn Nursery School

Greenstead Green Farm, Church Road, Halstead, Essex CO9 1QY

Our Local Offer for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

'Our aim is to make a positive difference to all the children in our care by providing a highly stimulating, safe and happy learning environment in which children develop a love of learning, are valued, and can thrive.'

Together we strive to improve outcomes and nurture resilient learners giving them the best possible start in life.'

The pursuit of excellence is at the heart of all we do and all The Barn offers. Our vision is uncompromisingly focused on the happiness and achievement of all children. Ensuring better outcomes for children is paramount and is our aspiration to continually improve.

We strive to ensure that all children are safe and happy in our care. Our priority is that their experiences of Nursery are positive enabling them to thrive and make rapid progress from their starting points.

Every child in our nursery is valued and all achievements are recognised. Teaching and learning is inclusive of all and carefully differentiated to meet the needs of each individual.

We aim to provide the highest quality of care and educational outcome for all children in attendance, individually tailoring our provision and care to support the individual needs of the child and that of their families where possible.

When the time comes to join us at The Barn...

We believe that a carefully planned transition process is paramount to a child settling.

We offer home visits to enable us to introduce ourselves to your family in an environment in which they feel most confident. Home visits can be especially helpful for children who may have an additional need or disability, or may just be quiet and shy as it helps us to build a picture of the whole child and what is special to them and your family.

Much research shows that children thrive from a base of loving and secure relationships and therefore we see the Key Worker role as one of great importance.

All adults are carefully paired with 'key children' and have overall responsibility for the care, planning, observations and assessments of their children. Through experience we have learned that it is very important that the key worker is present at the taster and settling sessions and that children bond quickly with those adults that first take them from the arms of their parents or primary caregiver.

The key worker responds sensitively to children's feelings and behaviours and meets their emotional needs by giving reassurance and supporting the child's well-being. They also support physical needs too by changing nappies, toileting and dressing.

Key Workers strive to develop a strong and trusting relationship with the children and parents to enable respectful and sensitive sharing of information. If you have any concerns about your child's development there will be ample opportunities to discuss this in private with them.

Reports from health care professionals, such as health visitors, speech and language therapists, identify your child's individual needs. We welcome parents and professionals to share these reports in order to plan to best to meet these needs.

We pride ourselves on offering a personalised settling period where we work with your family to ensure that children settle quickly. Taster sessions are offered to meet the needs of your child and these sessions are successful at settling even the most anxious of little ones. You are welcome to stay and play alongside your child until you feel at ease enough to leave them in our care.

We invite you to create a special family book when your child starts with us. These provide information about your child what is important to your family. These have proven to be invaluable when settling new children and they take real pride in sharing them with the other children at our setting.

We will endeavour, within our capabilities, to ensure our setting is adaptable and that all staff are fully trained and equipped with the skills they need to meet your child's needs before they join us at The Barn.

We are very understanding that your child may benefit from additional home visits and settling sessions and we will work with your family to provide this service.

How we will support your child?

We understand and support:

"When parents and practitioners work together, in early years settings, the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning."

(EYFS)

Children are at the heart of all we do. We endeavour to work hand in hand with you to fulfil your child's personal needs that we understand can be ever changing. We are dedicated in our plight to offer valuable life experiences and never ever go against the child's natural development. We place no emphasis on any one area of learning; everything we do is centred around facilitating independence and instilling self belief, whilst nurturing the needs of each child and their family in an effort to help them reach their full potential

At The Barn we have developed many effective systems to ensure the sharing of important information and many opportunities are offered to share both your child's strengths and any areas of need.

At The Barn a practitioner is dedicated to the role of Special Education and Disabilities Manager. The SEND Manager, Mrs Percival, is on hand to contact and meet with as regularly as you require. Meetings are planned for periodically throughout your time at The Barn to celebrate progress and to discuss your child's needs and next steps.

Their role is:

'To strive to promote the happiness and well-being of children with SEND to ensure their personal and educational needs are met in an effort to ensure they meet their full potential'.

Early intervention is key! The SEND Manager is responsible for supporting key Workers to identify any areas of need your child may have quickly and for the coordination of their care and targets.

The SEND Manager will draw upon all the information gathered about your child to develop a plan to meet your child's individual needs. Where appropriate, and only once your permission has been granted, we will enlist the services of other professionals and experts to seek their advice, support and to plan for your child's next steps.

Once all the information has been gathered, the SEND Manager will collate all the information together into a 'One Plan' in an effort to best support your child.

The One Planning will include...

- A One Page Profile, that share your child's strengths, areas for development and the strategies and plans in place to best support their every need.
- Observations, assessments and evaluations by both our team and other agencies.
- Plan, do, review documents that carefully plan and map out targets for your child. They also detail when and how frequently interventions will be carried out.
- Your views are integral to developing your child's One Plan and every step of the way we will ask you to contribute your views and wishes to the plan.

The SEND Manager will support Key Workers to identify individual needs and plan next steps, accessing additional support from other professionals where necessary. They will work with all staff to ensure we are providing appropriate and consistent support and will work in partnership with you, reviewing targets and planning new ones together. They will also give you ideas to use at home to support your child.

Should your child attend another setting whilst with us or transition to a new setting, we would invite your child's new key worker/teacher and SEND Manager to attend our Nursery with your child to help them plan for the best possible care.

We will hold a transition meeting at your convenience, to plan transition for your child into their new setting, giving the new setting time to make necessary plans for any changes they may need to make, sharing targets on your child's 'plan, do, review' from along with any other information that may be relevant to your child.

Who can I contact for further information and support?

Your child's key worker or the SEND Manager is your first point of contact if you would like to discuss your child's needs. However, we are always available for you to contact. Please do feel free to send give us a call, or email, and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as is possible.

We are able to offer advice in regards to other professionals who will be able to support your child; such as the Families Information Service, Health Visitors, Speech and Language Therapists, The Children's Centre, and the School Inclusion Partner for our area. We can also access support from area professionals on your behalf and with your permission.

If your child's need has been referred to a specific team, such as the Autism Outreach Service, we will support you in accessing support from them. Our team also host many very experienced practitioners and qualified Teachers (QTS). Our Quality Practice Manger, is also readily available to offer advice and strategies to cope with any issues or concerns you may have as to any undesirable behaviour.

We endeavour to adopt an open-door policy and that parents feel confident and happy to approach us at any time. We hope that by being accessible to the parents at all times that concerns can be dealt with instantly. Should you feel at any time that you are not satisfied with any aspect of our provision or practice, we would ask that you come to us to inform us of the matter to see if it can be resolved. If you are still unhappy, please ask for a copy of our complaints policy to inform you of procedures.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Established assessment and data collection systems are in place such as the 2-year-old check, specific on-going observational assessments linked to the EYFS ages and stage development matters statements and next steps progress trackers to inform you or your child's progress.

We have regular Next Steps meetings for you to attend to discuss with your child's key worker the progress they are making, along with review meetings carried out in partnership with you.

Our open-door policy means that you are always welcome to tell us how your child is doing on a daily basis, and provide ongoing two-way communication between us.

Telephone calls and mini meetings can also be booked at the parent's convenience too. We also send out newsletters, emails, texts and use a Facebook group to keep you up to date with what is happening at the Nursery.

What support will there be for my child's physical and emotional wellbeing?

All practitioners are very welcoming and friendly, providing an inclusive, sensitive and positive environment for your child to feel welcome at our Nursery. They provide good role models for positive behaviour, and we are consistent in our day to day care of all our children. Our happy children at The Barn are testament to this.

We are flexible in our routines to provide a positive environment for your child's needs, and provide personal care, such as changing nappies, respectfully.

Your child's One Planning will detail all aspects of their personal health care plans and staff will be trained in giving the appropriate medication for your child if required.

Challenges, activities and provision will be adapted to ensure your child is able to interact fully with their environment, and visual strategies, such as a first and then board to help them to understand our routines. We also use a visual timetable when necessary.

How will you help me to support my child's learning?

Your child's key worker or SEND Manager will discuss with you, at your child's review/Next Steps meetings, how best to support your child and give you ideas for activities at home that will mirror what we do at Nursery.

If your child has specific identified needs, we will work with the team supporting your child and explain to you how we are acting on advice given by them to support your child.

We will discuss with you on a daily basis at drop off and collections times how your child is doing on that particular day, which enables you to let us know about any new information we may need to have.

How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

We actively encourage you to be involved from your very first visit to the Nursery and your involvement is paramount to your child's success.

Regular Next Steps meetings impact upon your child's one plan to meet the ever-changing needs of your child.

Your permission will be always be sought before involving outside agencies, and we work hard to report back their findings – welcoming you to their feedback sessions should you wish to attend.

How will the learning and development provision be matched to my child's needs?

Your child's key worker and our SEND Manager will work together to make sure that the environment, routines and activities support your child's needs, and they will communicate with the rest of the staff to provide consistency and understanding within our team.

Ongoing observational assessments will be used as a starting point within the first weeks of starting linked to the EYFS ages and stages of development.

Targets will be set to support the learning and development of your child. This enables planning for individual needs and learning goals.

Emphasis is placed on the emotional security, confidence and well-being of your child and our settling-in process has adapted and grown to meet the needs of all; we pride ourselves on tailoring the process to suit the needs of your child and every family.

Tapestry – an online learning journal programme used in the Nursery allow you and your extended family to safely take an active part in your child's learning. The journals are activated as early as possible and well before your children attends to allow you and practitioners to post observations to help them get to know one another.

In posts, key workers introduce themselves (including pictures). Additional relevant and helpful information is posted prior to attendance and this promotes good relationships with yourselves from the outset.

We have developed close links with many local professionals, the local Health visitor, multiple children centre teams and have strong links with local schools. We regularly call upon their expertise and support and in turn we have reciprocated.

Why choose us?

We have established assessment and progress systems in place to ensure that no child falls behind in their learning and we regularly meet as a team to moderate and analyse data.

Provision and planning is centred around your child's interests and is driven by the analysis of data. 'Areas for Development' and these become an area of focus for the levelled challenges and activities across the nursery in an effort to improve outcomes and eradicate any deficit.

Next steps for your child are identified and these provide clear and concise guidelines that encourage early intervention. Key workers carefully collect evidence and amend their next steps as they are achieved and we actively encourage you to feed in to this process too. Next steps are regularly shared with you through meetings, our online learning journeys, at parents as partner sessions, progress meetings and through paper copies.

The Barn Nursery has a positive approach to behaviour management. We believe your child will flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and high expectations of their behaviour.

Through consistent guidance and good modelling, we will support your child to consider the views and feelings, needs and rights of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. We are very understanding children with additional needs may need more support, or may never be able to competently manage their behaviour and we will happily work with yourself and other professionals to develop systems and policies that best match their needs.

We have high aspirations for your child and we recognise that they may need a varying level of support and encouragement to be successful. We are consumed by the drive to continually

improve our practice through imaginative and varied teaching techniques and challenges to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

It is our duty as educators to enable your children to access the curriculum (or a curriculum better suited to your child's needs), and to identify children with additional needs promptly in an effort to scaffold and support their development.

We all have responsibility for ensuring interventions are planned and carried out for your child and work collaboratively as a team to reach your child's goals.

We are highly effective at closing gaps in learning and attainment through high quality teaching and effective intervention, planning and resource allocation.

We are highly reflective and strive to improve outcomes for your child and to improve our service. We meet daily at the end of each day to share the success and achievements of all and amend practice or adjust policies and procedures.

If your child is identified with an additional need, they will receive support additional to that of their key worker from our SEND Manager. Frequent bursts of time will be spent with your child solely working on targets from their One Plan.

We will endeavour to seek out additional funding or support should your child be entitled. Additional funding is carefully spent to best suit the needs of your child and we will share with you how this funding is being spent to benefit your child.

If your child would benefit from an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) we will hold your hand through the process from start to finish. We have successfully applied for and secured EHCP's all children that have been through the process. This in turn helps to ensure that children's needs are best met and have all they need to thrive.

When your child is getting ready to move on to school, we write to their school introducing your child, inviting their Reception teacher to many different events to spend time with your child whilst they are with us (story times and meet and greet the parent sessions).

We create a comprehensive report that includes a personal statement and details of your child's strengths, key skills and we forward learning journals and particularly important entries. This will be shared with the school alongside their One Plan.

We spend much time and effort liaising with teachers as well as helping schools to put together care plans for your child should they have an additional need. We receive excellent feedback in regards to our children's 'school readiness' from local schools regarding our transition process.

We believe that high quality interactions and time spent nurturing and facilitating your child every step of the way has the greatest impact on their achievement. We are dedicated to the safer recruitment of highly qualified staff and we are committed to their continual professional development. To support this, managers ensure the Nursery always has at least one member of staff that is supernumerary.

We believe we are a unique team of people brought together by a united goal – we wish to make a difference to the future of your child.

For further information, please do get in touch, we will happily share our practice with you in greater detail.