



Nido Montessori's Local Offer for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

At Nido Montessori we value every child and recognise that some children have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and others have challenges with some form of disability. Our 'local offer' is intended to give an understanding on how we can help if a child needs support and care in this way and what services are available. At the heart of Maria Montessori's approach is the desire to meet children where they are and to assist them in fulfilling their potential in life. We hope you will find this information helpful.

1.	How do we, at Nido, know if a child needs extra help and what should a parent do if they think that their child may have special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities?	<p>At Nido, we work closely with each individual child and their family. Each child has a designated key person, who through close observation and recording will plan the next steps each child's development in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). A key person is also allocated to the After-School Club children. This process enables us to identify any potential concerns as early as possible. Where we do identify a concern, we will discuss them sensitively with the child's parent or carer to decide what, together, we should do and how best to do it. Where we feel that an outside professional agency (e.g. speech and language specialist) may be helpful we will always discuss with the parent or carer and ask for consent before sharing information about their child.</p> <p>Parents and carers are also welcome to arrange a parent/ teacher meeting about their child at any time.</p>
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2.	How will Nido support a child with SEN or some form of disability?	<p>Firstly, we will encourage the parent or carer not to worry! We understand how difficult it is to consider whether a child may need special help.</p> <p>Our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SenCo) will work closely with the child's Key Worker to help and offer support. They will also work with the child's parent or carer and involve other professional agencies if necessary.</p>
3.	How will the curriculum at Nido be matched to the needs of a child with SEN or some form of disability?	<p>Nido Montessori is a mixed aged community of children. The Montessori approach uses practical real-world objects and equipment that allow sensory exploration and the development of skills that are required in everyday living. Every child is encouraged to develop care-of-self skills such as dressing, toileting, hand-washing etc.</p> <p>The environment at Nido has been prepared to offer a broad range of experiences which children can access according to their need. For example; freedom to choose their own activities, free-flow access to a secure garden, a separate playroom (the Den), a cosy quiet area and a book corner.</p> <p>We operate with a much higher ratio of adults to children than the legal requirement. This enables us to build good relationships with each child and their parent or carer. It also gives us more time to observe and monitor each child's progress and spot any signs of SEN or disabilities as early as possible.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>How will both Nido and a parent or carer know how a child is doing and how will Nido help parents or carers to support their child's learning?</p>	<p>At Nido, we carefully monitor each child's Learning and Development progress using the World's most advanced educational record-keeping system called My Montessori Child (MMC). This system links the Montessori Curriculum and the EYFS. Parents and carers can access their child's My Montessori Child's portal at any time. The portal shares photos, observations, next steps and details of the child's Key Person. A child's learning and development progress is available at all times. This includes the two-year progress checks.</p> <p>Parents and carers can also access a variety of Home Learning suggestions to help them support their child at home.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?</p>	<p>The safety and wellbeing of the all the children at Nido is our key objective. We operate with a much higher ratio of adults to children than the legal requirement. This enables us to spend more time with each child.</p> <p>All staff at Nido, are trained in Paediatric First Aid and some with additional specialised training, for example, the use of 'Epi-Pens' and epilepsy awareness. However, we will all undertake other specialised training if the need arises.</p> <p>We have a designated person responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection. However, all staff at Nido, are trained in Safeguarding.</p> <p>Prescribed medication is administered strictly in accordance with our Administration policy, which includes specific consent via a Medicine Administration form.</p>

		Each child is encouraged to develop self-care regarding hygiene, toileting and hand washing. This is an essential part of developing a child's independence and confidence. Sleep or rest is also incorporated into the child's day to suit their needs.
6.	What specialist services and expertise are available or accessed by the setting?	We have regular Yoga sessions at Nido. We work closely with an organisation called Yoga with Sarah. In addition to Yoga, Sarah, also teaches the children calming breathing techniques.
7.	What training have the staff, supporting children with SEND, had or having?	<p>Our Montessori Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding - Children and Young Person Workforce – Level 3 - Child Protection - First Aid (including Epi-Pen) - Prevent Duty - British Values <p>Our Level Three Practitioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding - SEN - Child Protection - First Aid - Prevent Duty

8.	How will my child be included in activities outside the setting, including trips?	<p>We aim to include every child in all activities inside and outside of the Nido.</p> <p>All Nido's outings are planned to ensure that there is time to undertake risk assessments. Every outing is tailored to suit the needs of every child.</p> <p>Parents and carers are always welcome to attend our trips. If a parent or carer does not want their child to attend an outing they are invited to swap their child's day to another during the same week.</p>
9.	How accessible is the environment at Nido? (Indoors and outdoors).	<p>Nido Montessori is in a house that is on street level. The children can access all areas of the ground floor, which includes their own kitchen and toilet. We have a portable ramp that can be used for wheel chair access in and out of a secure garden.</p> <p>Our Montessori prepared environment is naturally calm and spacious with good acoustics.</p> <p>We have access to specialised resources to support the children through the Toy Library and Children's Centre.</p>
10.	How will Nido prepare and support my child to join the early years setting, transfer to a new school?	<p>At Nido we recognise how important (and potentially alarming!) it is when a child transitions from home to nursery or from nursery to another setting. We therefore have a clear transition policy and work hard to give every child and their family a positive experience as they join us or move on to school or another setting.</p>

		<p>Joining Nido Montessori □</p> <p>We welcome the child and their parent, carer or other close family members to visit Nido anytime throughout the day. They can spend as much time as they need to look around the setting and observe the children and the adults in the environment.</p> <p>We offer two free 3-hour settling sessions. We invite the parent/ carer to stay for as long as they feel that they need during this time.</p> <p>Once the child has started at Nido their parent/ carer is given access to our online Learning and Development portal, My Montessori Child. This will give them unlimited access to photos, learning journals and their child's sleep, food and nappy details.</p> <p>We always welcome parents in to Nido at pick-up to give feedback on their child's day.</p> <p>Going to School</p> <p>As a child approaches the time to move on, we involve parents or carers, the future class teacher, any future teaching support assistant, the school's SENCo and any other outside professionals already supporting the child, arranging 'team around the child' meetings as necessary □</p> <p>We invite the future class teacher, any future Teaching Assistant and the school's SenCo to visit children in our setting before they start at school □</p>
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11.	<p>How are Nido's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?</p>	<p>The heart of the Montessori approach is to enable any child to develop their fullest potential, something that is inherent in the way we prepare Nido's environment. In this sense, every child has special (unique) educational needs and abilities that need to be developed. Our fundamental approach and organisation of resources is, therefore, very well aligned to the particular needs of children with special educational needs or disabilities ☐</p> <p>The Montessori equipment we use offers a wide range of opportunities for children to learn, meeting their needs and matching their abilities. The materials can be refined further if there is a particular need, and we will consider doing this when such needs arise ☐</p> <p>Similarly, we are happy to buy additional resources to meet particular needs, if the funding is available. ☐</p> <p>Again, our approach and ratios of adults to children provide time and opportunities for children to repeat activities and refine their skills ☐</p> <p>We use music, yoga and sensory (messy) play, all of which provide variety and alternative ways of learning and developing ☐</p>

		<p>We have child-sized, child accessible resources and equipment <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>At Nido there are many activities which support physio-type exercises, pincer grip refining, muscle strengthening and hand-eye co-ordination activities. There are also many activities that develop gross and fine motor control <input type="checkbox"/></p>
12.	<p>How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?</p>	<p>The support needs for children with special educational needs or disabilities become apparent at different times and change over time too. We adopt what is known as an early support approach, aiming to identify needs and put support in place as early as possible to maximise the benefits to the child concerned.</p> <p>Our decision-making processes operate in partnership with the child, the child's parents or carers, beginning before the child joins the nursery and extending into a child's transition to school or another setting <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>These processes may be triggered by parents or carers or arise from our regular observation of the child, review of their One Plan or Health Care Plan. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
13.	<p>How are parents involved at Nido? How can I be involved?</p>	<p>We welcome the involvement of parents and carers at Nido. They are already primarily involved directly with the welfare, wellbeing and progress of their child.</p> <p>We also welcome their involvement in other areas. Such as fundraising, attending outings, gardening and general maintenance and repairs at Nido.</p>

14.	Who should we contact for further information about Nido?	Nido Montessori, 86 Gardner Road, Brighton, BN41 1PL Telephone number: 07495 995682 Email address: Dionne@nidomontessori.co.uk Website: www.nidomontessori.co.uk
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