



## 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.

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	<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 for 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. When we do identify a concern, we will discuss them sensitively with the child's parent or carer to decide what we can do to support their child as a partnership. If we feel that an outside professional agency (e.g. speech and language specialist) may be helpful we will ask the parent/ carer for consent before sharing information about their child.</p> <p>Parents and carers are also welcome to arrange a Parent Partnership meeting about their child at Nido at any time. The meeting can be arranged face to face, by phone or online (Teams or Zoom).</p>
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2.	<b>How will Nido support a child with SEN or Disability?</b>	<p>Firstly, we will encourage the parent/ carer not to worry! We understand how difficult it is to consider whether a child may need additional support, especially as such a young age.</p> <p>Our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SenCo) will work closely with the child's Key Worker to offer support. They will also work with the child's parent/ carer and involve other professional agencies if necessary.</p>
3.	<b>How will the curriculum at Nido be matched to the needs of a child with SEN or some form of disability?</b>	<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 Cabin), cosy quiet areas and a reading area.</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/ carer. It also gives us more time to observe and monitor each child's progress and spot any signs of SEN or disability very early on.</p>

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>How will both Nido and a parent/ carer know how a child is doing and how will Nido help parents or carers to support their child's learning?</b></p>	<p>At Nido, we carefully monitor each child's Learning and Development progress using the world's most advanced Montessori educational record-keeping system called My Montessori Child (MMC). This system links the Montessori Curriculum and the EYFS. Parents/ carers can access their child's MMC 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 report is available at all times. This includes the two-year progress checks.</p> <p>Parents/ carers can also access a variety of Home Learning suggestions to support their child at home.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?</b></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 the MMC before any medicine is administered.</p>

		<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.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>What specialist services and expertise are available or accessed by the setting?</b></p>	<p>The Nido Team are all qualified and experienced practitioners. We also have a member of the team that has experience as an Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) tutor. They also have experience working as a Support Worker using Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).</p> <p>They work at Nido on a part time basis. When not at Nido they work with children at home and/or support in school or nursery, implementing the strategies and the skills identified by the Behaviour Analyst. I use behavioural techniques to help improve their social and emotional skills.</p> <p>They also have experience working with ASD, ADHD, PDA, oral motor and verbal dyspraxia and more.</p> <p>We also have access to regular SenCo support meetings and the Early Years and Child Care (EYCC) team for West Sussex. The EYCC team offer a range of services such as telephone support and targeted setting support.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>What training have the staff, supporting children with SEND, had or having?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speech and Language</li> <li>- Makaton</li> <li>- Specific medical training. For example, Epi-Pen</li> <li>- Mental Health Awareness</li> <li>- Encouraging Positive Behavior</li> <li>- Understanding Autism</li> <li>- Class Behavior Management</li> </ul>

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8.	<b>How will my child be included in activities outside the setting, including trips?</b>	<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>If a parent/ 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.	<b>How accessible is the environment at Nido? (Indoors and outdoors).</b>	<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.</p> <p>Our Montessori prepared environment is naturally calm and spacious with good acoustics.</p>
10.	<b>How will Nido prepare and support my child to join the early years setting, transfer to a new school?</b>	<p>At Nido, we recognise how important (and potentially alarming!) it is when a child transitions from home to nursery or from nursery to school or another setting.</p> <p>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><b>Joining Nido Montessori</b> ☐</p> <p>We welcome the child and their parent, carer or other close family members to visit Nido and encourage them to bring the child. 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. During the settles we send regular messages and photos to the parent/ carer about the child.</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 (MMC). This will give them unlimited access to photos, learning journals and their child's sleep, food and nappy details.</p> <p>At pick up, our experienced practitioners give feedback about the child's day and answer any questions that they are asked</p> <p><b>Going to School</b></p> <p>As a child approaches the time to move on, we involve parents/ 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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<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>How are Nido’s resources allocated and matched to children’s special educational needs?</b></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 purchase 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>
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12.	<b>How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?</b>	<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/ 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/ carers or arise from our regular observations of the child, review of their One Plan or Health Care Plan. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
13.	<b>How are parents involved at Nido? How can I be involved?</b>	<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, gardening and general maintenance and repairs at Nido.</p>

<b>14.</b>	<b>Who should we contact for further information about Nido?</b>	Nido Montessori, 30 Franklin Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6YD Telephone number: 07495 995682 Email address: <a href="mailto:Dionne@nidomontessori.co.uk">Dionne@nidomontessori.co.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.nidomontessori.co.uk">www.nidomontessori.co.uk</a>
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