

The Local Offer

The Local Offer provides information on the services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged between 0 – 25 and how to access them.

The Lemon Tree nursery Local Offer:

The Lemon Tree Nursery is a light, spacious, fully integrated and fully inclusive nursery, caring for children from 12 months to 5 years. The nursery is all on one level. We have a portable ramp to provide access to people of all abilities and are able to offer a place to any child with special educational needs or disability. We respect that all children are individuals and have educational needs which are unique to them, and we will modify the curriculum to take account of children's individual needs.

How we identify children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and how Early Years practitioners will support your Child

At Lemon Tree Nursery we implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We make every effort to provide equality of opportunities and experiences to every child, to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum. Your child will have a key worker who will oversee and plan for your child's learning, and will record their learning and development through an on-line learning journey, called My Nursery Child.

Observations carried out on children are the basis for identifying children's needs and will indicate whether they might need any extra support. All practitioners have a responsibility to identify children with SEN and support their development. There are other tools used to monitor your child's progress, summaries of learning and development, two year old progress check, ECAT - 'Every Child A Talker' forms, Behaviour charts, SEN Support Plan (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) and the EYFS Developmental Journal if needed. We aim to work closely with you to gain a full picture of your child's interests and abilities. You will be able to raise any concerns that you may have verbally or in writing with your child's key worker, the nursery SENCOs or the Nursery Manager. You can also arrange to have a meeting to discuss your child's needs.

We use the 'graduated response' which ensures that you are part of the process every step of the way. All nursery practitioners will work together to carry out observations which track your child's learning and monitor progress. The nursery SENCOs and your child's key worker will also tailor the EYFS to provide activities for your child's individual needs and interests. With your consent the Nursery may seek advice from the Somerset's Inclusion Advice Line or any other professionals - such as the Health Visitor or Speech and Language Therapist, who will liaise with us and who can help to assess the extent to which your child may need extra support. An Individual SEN Support Plan (Assess, Plan, Do, Review), may be necessary, which will involve your views and have specific goals key to your child's individual needs and interests.

There is a possibility that your child will be able to get High Needs Funding for a certain number of hours within the setting, depending on their needs and the provision and/or staffing that needs to be put in place in order to support their learning and development effectively.

All practitioners will be involved in supporting your child on a day-to-day basis.

How we will prepare and support your child in joining the setting and making a positive transition

You will be offered flexible 'stay-and-play' and settling-in sessions for your child to suit individual needs of the child and their parents/carers in order to begin the settling in process. A registration form and "My interests" forms filled out by you will be made accessible to all staff within the setting to ensure everyone knows details about your child during their settling-in process.

When it is time for your child to make the transition to school, a transition form will be written by your child's key worker, which will include your comments and then passed on to the school. There may also be a School Entry Plan meeting which will involve you and all professionals involved in supporting your child.

How we will keep you informed and help you to support your child's learning

There are opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress with your child's key worker and/or the nursery SENCOs in any of the following ways:

- Verbal communication at drop off and collection times
- We are always available to talk, and will endeavour to set up a time during the nursery's opening hours for you to see your child's key person and/or the SENCOs to discuss your child's needs and ways to help them achieve their full potential.
- Home-setting communication via My Nursery Child parent portal
- Stay and play sessions

We keep records for a number of reasons:

- Providing you with information about your child's achievements and developments
- Monitoring your child's progress
- Identifying your child's own perceptions and views
- Providing information for outside agencies who may also be involved with your child's SEND

We will ensure that practitioners within the setting will work with you to support your child at all times.

Support for your child's overall well-being and taking account of your child's views

Your child's well-being is supported day-to-day during their time at Lemon Tree Nursery. We will listen to your child's views and have strategies for the various ways we listen to children.

- Children are encouraged to contribute their views to day-to-day routine, allowing them to follow their individual interests and share ideas.
- We liaise with health professionals, such as the Health Visitor and can seek advice to support specific needs where necessary
- If your child is needing prescribed medication, relevant medication forms will be completed by you and the Nursery will be responsible for ensuring that the medication is given at the times stated
- Inclusive Communication (IC) formally known as Somerset Total Communication (STC) is used within the setting to support communication.
- Risk assessments are carried out regularly to ensure children's health and safety within the setting and the surrounding areas, e.g. for local walks and outdoor play.

Who you can contact for further information

If you have any questions or require further information please contact the Nursery Manager or Nursery SENCOs. We will be happy to arrange a visit for you and your child/children to come and meet us.