



## Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities: Provider case studies

### Roundabout Nursery, Brighton

Roundabout Nursery is based in the Whitehawk area of Brighton. It's an area in the east of the coastal city that has high deprivation and mixed ethnic communities. The nursery is in the heart of the community and based within the ten-year-old children's centre on a site with many other family services including health and social care. It's a bright, busy nursery and run by very experienced, well trained staff who are passionate about the children they care for.

#### Positive attitude

Roundabout has a very positive attitude towards all children and encourages local families to make full use of the nursery and the expertise of the staff team. They frequently care for several children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and who require one to one support. They also have a number of children who don't have one to one care but who have speech and language support. The range of special educational needs and disabilities that children may present with include; complex medical conditions, autism, physical disabilities and behavioural needs. When children register at the nursery the staff team will look at the child's needs, how the nursery can meet these needs and whether any additional resources are required and who the best people and services are to provide these.

***"We are open to everyone and take positive action to removing barriers. Staff are welcoming and smiley, they have a good attitude and they challenge discriminatory behaviour or language."***

The nursery works with the unique child principle of the EYFS and this is reflected throughout their practice and in the environment. Equipment and resources reflect different backgrounds and abilities, with signs, symbols and photos displayed.

All local children and families are welcomed into the setting; staff do home visits and will ask if their child has any additional needs or what could be put in place at the nursery for them, such as extra settling sessions. They focus on children's individual likes and dislikes, wants and needs, safety, health and learning opportunities. Children have good opportunities to build friendships, share and to celebrate their interests. Risks to a child are always assessed, but children learn through taking small risks which also gives them a sense of excitement.





### Training

Having a well trained staff team is crucial to caring for children with SEND. Roundabout provides extensive training for staff to meet the needs of the children including; tube feeding, behaviour management, manual handling, Makaton and other communication techniques. PRESENS, the local authority early years SEN service, also provides training on the four areas of learning- communication and interaction, cognition and learning, emotional and social, and sensory and physical. All staff receive ongoing inclusive practice and equality training, SEN training and they attend external events and conferences. External events provide good opportunities to network with other providers, to pick up ideas to extend their own good practice and to implement the new SEND code of practice.

Much of the training is carried out in house and cascaded through the team. They also bring in the expertise of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, health visitors, speech and language teams and parents.

Working with other local organisations is also key to accessing expertise, resources and funding. There are a number of local voluntary and statutory services that Roundabout work with to source furniture, specialist equipment and funding. In addition, they work very closely with the PRESENS team and local charities to ensure a joined up approach to their care and to the best outcomes.

### Supporting families

Supporting families is a major part of the work at Roundabout. They are a well-regarded community nursery, but some families need more encouragement to understand what is on offer at the nursery and the centre as a whole. Through community outreach programmes, they make contact with local families to raise awareness of the benefits of childcare for the whole family, as well as the play and learning opportunities on offer at the nursery.

Many families of children with complex needs can be reluctant to leave their very young child in the care of someone else. Roundabout recognises these very real concerns and staff spend a lot of time doing home visits, phoning, and holding informal meetings with the parents to reassure them and help families make the adjustment to using childcare. This support is ongoing once children attend the nursery, with staff providing much needed reassurance to families; sharing ideas for how activities can be continued within the home and simply being understanding to the challenges some families face.

### Easing transition to school

Children with SEND can benefit hugely from attending pre-school childcare. Parents talk about it helping their children understand the world around them, to be used to being in large groups, to help adapt to having someone other than their parents being a carer and to prepare them for school. Roundabout works closely with families and schools to prepare children for their transition into primary school. They help families with school applications, attend meetings and accompany them to open days. Schools are invited to meet with children at the nursery and a plan for each child's specific needs is put in place to ensure continuity of care from nursery to reception class.

Roundabout believe that early intervention is key to all round family support – to enable children to begin socialising, learning and developing alongside other children, and for the families to begin normalising their lives and being able to work or train.

To find out more about Roundabout Nursery visit: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/information-and-advice-families/roundabout-nursery-0](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/information-and-advice-families/roundabout-nursery-0)

**For further information and resources on inclusive childcare visit: [www.familyandchildcaretrust.org](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org)**

