

<p>1. Your name and Ofsted number:</p> <p>Helen Gallacher, Little Stars Childminding Service, Horsham, West Sussex</p>
<p>1. If you work with another childminder does anyone specialise in SEN and D? I work in isolation.</p>
<p>1. Provide a short paragraph about your ethos/mission statement for including children and young people with Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND). How do you aim to meet the unique needs of the child?</p> <p>I will strive to provide your child with an environment that will be caring, fun and stimulating. I will implement ideas from Early Years Foundation Stage. As a childminder I am required by law to ensure each child in my care has every opportunity to extend their learning. The activities and adventures we carry out in the setting are tailored to the children in the setting, their stage of development and most importantly, are child led/ initiated.</p>
<p>1. How do you identify that a child is not meeting appropriate age related milestones and what do you do in this case? How do you find out what matters to the child and their family?</p> <p>I monitor and observe the children in my care in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. A 2 year development check is carried out and shared with parents/carers and any concerns regarding development will be discussed. The needs of children new to the setting are discussed on initial visits and an all about me form is completed, then reviewed and discussed which details the child's needs and wants.</p>
<p>1. How do you promote positive relationships and ensure good, ongoing communication with families? How will families know what progress their children are making, how to access additional support and what they can do at home to help?</p> <p>Every child is individual and I cater for this by observing them through play and can look to ways to extend and challenge their play. Whether this is by using my varied resources (e.g. flash cards, visual timetables) or sourcing resources from the family centre toy libraries and other childminding professionals. Every day the child takes home a daily diary that will inform you how the child did in the day with regard to both play and basic physical needs, (e.g. food, drink, sleep and toileting). I also generate learning journals that provide an ongoing record of development. These are shared termly with parents and can be inspected at any time...</p>
<p>1. How will you communicate with other providers who care for a child, or with providers who will be caring for the child? How do you support children to experience a smooth transition to school or a different situation?</p>

I will gain agreement with you to use a common shared communication platform – e.g. a communication book or via email. I can also informally chat to the provider with your permission. We will come to an agreement about the best format to use to enable this to happen most effectively.

I welcome parents sharing reports from health care professionals, such as health visitors, speech and language therapists in order that I can plan appropriately to meet children's needs. I can seek support and advice from the Early Years Advisory Teacher at West Sussex FIRS (Facilitating Inclusion through Reflection, Support and Training). Parents' permission for First involvement is always sought.

1. How do you provide an enabling environment for all the children in your care? Are there quiet areas and fully accessible spaces? What other adjustments can you make? What about the physical environment in and outside your setting?

I live in a 3 bedroom chalet style semi in a residential street in Horsham. There is limited parking, but we have shared drive with a dropped kerb that gives access for wheelchairs. I can source a ramp to access the house via using the back gate and back door. The lower garden is fully accessible to a wheelchair user with plans in place to replace the grass with artificial turf. There is a purpose built playhouse at the far end of the garden- because of the steps leading up to it this is not easily accessible to a wheelchair user.

The back door is wider in order to accommodate a double buggy or wheelchair. The lower house is suitable for access and there is a downstairs loo. Upstairs is only used for sleep and there is no bathroom there, only two bedrooms. The third bedroom is downstairs and is also used for sleep in the day.

We use the dining room as a general play and messy play as well as eating area – and use the living room for quiet time as well as general play. This works very well. I use Springboard regularly and run a toddler group at my church on a Tuesday and both these places, as well as other places I go to such as the beach and Nymans, are easily accessed by wheelchairs.

1. There is an opportunity here for you to tell families what experience you have of working with children with additional needs.

I have worked with a boy who had English as a second language (and no knowledge of it at all) so we used lots of visual aids and signing. I have attended a baby signing course conducted by the family centre. I have the PAT mark from the West Sussex Parent partnership. Have attended taster courses in ADHD, and inclusion. I have experience of very anxious children and have extensive settling in periods to give everyone time to adjust – I have great communication skills and can guide children to be settled by the strong routines we have in the setting. I have a plaque above my front door that says everything I believe in “ We can't all be stars but we can twinkle!” .

1. My website address

www.littlestarschildminding-service.co.uk