

# Specialist Nursery Interventions for pre-school children in Kent

## Information for Families & Early Years Settings



## What is a Specialist Nursery Intervention?

As part of the Kent Local Offer there are specialist nurseries across the county whose role it is to support children who have been identified as having a high level of Special Educational Needs.

Specialist Nursery Interventions are supported by a team of specialist nursery staff and can take a range of different forms. It is intended that these approaches be in addition to each child's existing Early Years place. The Specialist Nursery Intervention offer will be in the family's home district.

## What is the process?

- ◆ Referrals can only be made by Kent Specialist Teachers or Portage Practitioners.
- ◆ Following a referral for a Specialist Nursery Intervention being made and agreed at the local Multi-agency Planning (MAP) meeting the most appropriate Specialist Nursery Intervention will be identified and offered.
- ◆ The Specialist Teacher or Portage Practitioner who made the referral will contact the family to advise on the outcome of the MAP meeting within a week of the MAP meeting.
- ◆ The Specialist Nursery Teacher will call the Early Years setting to discuss timings and the Specialist Nursery Intervention offered within a week of the MAP meeting.
- ◆ The Specialist Nursery will write to the family confirming the intervention offered within two weeks of the intervention being agreed and detail specific arrangements when this will commence.

## Kent Special Schools offering Specialist Nursery Interventions

<b>District</b>	<b>Special School</b>
Ashford	The Wyvern Special School
Canterbury	St Nicholas Special School
Dover	Whitfield Aspen School
Folkestone & Hythe	The Beacon School
Gravesham	Ifield School
Maidstone	Five Acre Wood School
Dartford and Sevenoaks	Milestone Academy
Swale	Meadowfield School
Thanet	Foreland Fields School
Tonbridge & Malling	Nexus Foundation Special School
Tunbridge Wells	Oakley School

## **Partnership Working**

Partnerships between the family, Specialist Nursery, Pre-school setting and other agencies are highly valued with the focus being on jointly supporting the child's progress through shared targets and outcomes.

## **What can Families expect?**

- ◆ Support for families in understanding their children's needs and how best to support them.
- ◆ The specialist nursery team will provide advice and support to pre-school settings working with the children accessing a Specialist Nursery Intervention. This will ensure a consistency of approach used by all supporting the children, securing the best outcomes through effective use of strategies and realistic expectations.

## **What will the intervention look like?**

A time limited Specialist Intervention, delivered (usually over 2 terms) either in a Specialist Nursery or by the Specialist Nursery staff at the child's existing early years setting.

## **What happens after the Specialist Nursery Intervention?**

Towards the end of the Specialist Nursery Intervention a meeting with the family and other professionals known to the child takes place. The focus of this meeting will be to review the impact of the Specialist Nursery Intervention and suggest next steps for the child. These proposals will be confirmed at the next MAP meeting and then shared with the family.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- ◆ Will the child's early years setting hold their existing sessions open for if/when they need to return?

Yes, the child's existing setting will be able to continue to claim funding for the whole funding period during terms 1 to 4 that the child is receiving Specialist Nursery Intervention, so they should be able to hold the child's place open until they return. It is expected wherever possible that children will access or continue to access a mainstream pre-school setting alongside their Specialist Intervention offer from a specialist nursery.

- ◆ Can children have transport to get to a specialist nursery whilst accessing a Specialist Nursery Intervention?

No, there is no automatic right to transport for the child to get to the nursery.

- ◆ Will the specialist nursery setting help families to choose the right school for their child to move on to?

The specialist nursery staff will collect information and evidence about the strategies and support that the child responds to best and this will help families to make an informed decision about which school would be right for their child for year R. The nursery staff will be happy to discuss options with families but are not able to recommend particular schools.

- ◆ Does the child have to have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) to access a Specialist Nursery Intervention?

No, but the child would need to be known to the Portage Service or Specialist Teacher.

- ◆ Will the specialist setting be able to support the process of requesting a statutory assessment, if so, how?

If it is deemed appropriate the specialist nursery staff support the process of statutory assessment by;

- ◆ Initiating the request as and when it is appropriate to do so.
- ◆ Collating evidence of the child's needs and learning targets to support the request and the production of the EHCP, if this is agreed.
- ◆ Offering parents / carers support and regular feedback about how the process is going.
- ◆ A Specialist Nursery Intervention does not guarantee that Statutory Assessment will be agreed if initiated or that a Specialist Placement for school will be considered appropriate.

- ◆ Does it matter if a child is in nappies?

Not at all. It is quite normal for nursery children with additional needs to be in nappies at this stage.

- ◆ Do children have to attend every session?

If they are ill then please don't send them. If there is continued absence then it may be necessary for the specialist nursery to review the child's offer.

There is an expectation that a commitment is made to this offer by all partners so that the intervention can be a success for the child. Special School Nurseries have the ability, under their Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority (LA), to review the offer should attendance be poor/inconsistent for 3 consecutive weeks. This could result in the offer to a child being rescinded. Access to Specialist Interventions are additional to a child's entitlement to the Free Early Education offer and as a limited resource Special School Nursery Managers have the discretion to make this decision and then update the LA at the next termly MAP Meeting.