

Little Einsteins - St Albans

Brief description of the setting

We are a self contained room, with children aged 2-5 years. We currently have 32 children on role. We are a private day nursery based within St Albans Catholic Primary School.

How we identify if your child may need additional help and/or has special educational needs (SEN)

Children all have their own learning plans, and regular observations are carried out to ensure we have a clear picture of how each child is learning and developing. Should we find that a child needs additional help, or has a special educational need, then we would first discuss that with parents and carers. As a nursery, Little Einsteins has had a lot of experience in supporting children and their families, so here at St Albans we have a good range of assistance available to us. We have good links with other agencies and professionals who work with Early Years children.

If a child have any multiagency support prior to attending nursery we will arrange a pre entry meeting to ensure that we can fully support the child/family.

How we involve parents and carers in meeting the needs of their child and in whole setting developments

Parents are able to access their child's development file at any time online through the Babysdays site.

We give regular feedback at the end of sessions to parents and carers. Parents are also invited to come into nursery for parent-practitioner meetings. Parents and carers are encouraged to talk to staff if they have any concerns, and likewise, we invite parents in to talk to staff should we find that a child may need extra support

How we will involve your child in the planning and review of their support

Any extra support planned for children will first be taken from their interests and abilities. As children take part in extra activities to support their learning, staff evaluate the activity as to it's success, make recommendations based upon the outcome. The child always remains at the centre of the learning plan.

How we match the curriculum, teaching and learning approaches if your child has SEND

All activities are differentiated according to learning styles, and abilities. Extra differentiation is provided for children who require it in order to access the curriculum.

How we provide additional support if your child has learning needs

A child with learning needs may require extra differentiation in order to access the activities planned, they may also need the opportunity to take more time, or have

more tries in order to succeed. One-to-one activities may also be planned for your child, or smaller group activities.

How we provide additional support if your child has social and communication needs

If your child has communication needs, staff may use Makaton in order to support understanding, will repeat sentences, or adjust their speech to aid your child. For example, using shorter clearer sentences. Activities will be planned to support your child's social and communication development, which may be one-to-one, or in small groups.

How we provide additional support if your child has physical, sensory and/or medical needs

If your child has medical needs, then we will take steps to ensure that staff are trained in understanding and supporting you and your child. If your child has physical or sensory needs, then we would invite you to visit our setting, working with you we would make changes to our environment to aid access, and to support your child's continuing development. We would work with any other agencies involved with your family to ensure that we continue to support you effectively.

How we provide help to support your child's emotional health and well being

Working with you and your child, we would encourage your child's emotional development. As a part of the curriculum, personal, social and emotional development is a prime area. If your child needs extra support in this area, then more activities will be planned, and differentiated according to your child's needs. Little Einsteins is a healthy eating nursery. We encourage children to try a range of fruit and vegetables, and provide milk and water to drink.

How we promote developing independence

Children are encouraged to try to do things for themselves. Children are supported in learning new skills, with hand-over-hand support or role-modelling as needed.

How we measure and review your child's progress against their targets and longer term outcomes

Children each have their own learning journey. As they progress, these are updated. All children's progress is regularly tracked to ensure that they are all progressing, or that any gaps in learning are picked up.

How we adapt the learning environment and ensure that our school facilities are safe and welcoming to children with SEND

Our nursery is on one level, and a self contained large room. We would arrange furniture to allow access, should a child's mobility be restricted. Resources are provided with the children's interests and abilities in mind. Activities planned are done so with children's interests in mind and differentiated to allow as many as possible to take part. If a child is unable to access a particular activity, then an

alternative will be provided to ensure development continues. Regular risk assessments are carried out to ensure the environment is safe for all who attend.

How we include children with SEND in the life of our setting

When parents contact the nursery, they are invited to come and look around to ensure that they are happy that we can meet the needs of their child. Children with SEND are encouraged to join in with all aspects of nursery life. Learning plans are put in place to ensure development continues and resources are chosen to include all children at the setting. Children are encouraged to be accepting of difference, however that difference takes place.

How we ensure that all our staff are trained and supported to meet a wide range of children's needs

We have a member of staff who has been trained in the Role of the SENCo. This member of our team ensures that all staff are aware of how to support children with SEND who attend our nursery. All staff are encouraged to attend a variety of training courses, and then to share what they have learned.

External support and expertise we can call upon to help us to meet children's need

Little Einsteins is a nursery with several settings. The company has many years' experience in looking after children many of whom have had additional or special educational needs. Here at St Albans site, we can draw on the expertise of staff from the other nurseries. We also have strong links with the Health Visiting team and the Pre-school Inclusion Team. Little Einsteins has a reputation for our professionalism, and we work well with agencies who work to support families who have children with additional or special educational needs.

How we prepare children to join our setting

We begin by organising a home visit. This lets children meet us for the first time where they feel most safe. During this visit, staff collate information about the family and the child, and shares information about Little Einsteins nursery. Then settling in visits are planned. These are shorter than a normal session, and for the first visit, parents can remain on site. The number of settling visits planned, will depend upon the needs of the child and his or her parents. Parents are given feedback about how their child has settled, and the activities they have taken part in.

How we prepare children to move on from our setting

We have a school readiness programme for children leaving us to join their local primary. Teachers are contacted to ask if they would like to visit our nursery and meet the children who will be attending their school. We also like to organise visits to the schools our children will attend.

How we deploy our resources to meet the needs of children with SEND

If extra support is needed, then we would have a member of staff available to support that child. We would try to ensure that the same staff offer the support each

time for continuity. If extra or specialist resources are needed, then we would ensure that we had access to them during the child's session. We would also include the child's extra needs in the normal planning for the room.

Contact for more information

For up to date contact information, please use the Childcare and School Search on the home page of the Families Information Service website.