



Frequently Asked Questions by Families of Children with SEND

My child has complex needs, can they still come to nursery school?

Yes! As long as we have a free space, all children are welcome at nursery. Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) are sometimes given priority for a place in nursery, depending on circumstances. If your child has very complex medical or Special Educational Needs, we may need to plan how we will adapt our provision to meet their needs before they start and they may need a longer settling in period. However, most children with SEND start in the same way as all the children.

What extra support might my child get if they have SEND?

Many children with SEND will be fully supported by high quality, differentiated teaching from the nursery team. Some children will benefit from participating in some specialist activities or interventions which we offer to help children develop particular skills. A few children may need additional adult support to access everything. In this case, after the child has settled into nursery, we may discuss with you applying for additional funding to allow us to provide some additional adult support for part of their day.

What if my child won't eat nursery food?

Some children with SEND are very sensitive about food and eating or drinking. If this is the case with your child, we will discuss their individual needs with you in detail and make a plan. We don't allow packed lunches but we do make adaptations to our menu when needed. We do encourage all families to bring healthy snacks to share with everyone (fruit, vegetables and rice cakes or similar) and we offer toast. Sometimes snacks can help children get used to eating during the day. Milk and water are always available. If your child needs reminding or support to drink, let us know.

Does my child need to be toilet trained to come to nursery?

No. If your child isn't toilet trained yet we will discuss this with you once they have settled in. When the time feels right, we'll work with you to help them learn to use the toilet independently but we know that some children with SEND will need longer to learn this and may not be ready yet. We have comfortable, clean changing areas for children and all our staff are experienced in nappy changing.

My child (or I) needs wheelchair access. Is this possible?

Yes. The nursery is situated on the ground floor without internal steps or stairs leading in or out. We have a wheelchair-accessible toilet.

How do I get involved with my child's education?

We want children's families to be involved with all aspects of their education. There are lots of opportunities for this including: sharing information when children are settling in, collaboratively planning and assessing children's progress with staff, joining in with nursery activities and events or even becoming a parent governor. When we make individual plans for children, they always include what families can do at home as well as what we will do at school so we can work together.

What about when they go to primary school?

In a child's last academic year before they attend primary school, we are on hand to advise parents how to apply for primary school. We work with families and schools to arrange smooth transitions. This might include arranging meetings with their new setting, sharing of information and making plans to make sure children's needs will be met as soon as they start at their new school.

My child already has a specialist working with them. How does that work?

When your child starts in nursery, we will seek your permission to contact any professionals already offering them support such as a speech and language therapists or a multi-disciplinary team. We often work collaboratively with outside professionals and include their expert input in plans we make for children and in assessing their progress.

To view 'Understanding SEN Support', a DfE leaflet containing questions for families to ask of schools about identification and implementation of additional support, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please get in touch:

Tel: 0207 5200385 or Email: admin@thomascoram.camden.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you and your child!