

9. Our accessible environment.

The Pre-school has a named ENCO Co-ordinator who operates a Single Equality Scheme which is updated annually. This involves an Access Audit, Early Years Inclusive Environments Good Practice Audit, and an Equality Impact Check. An action plan is updated annually and has been acted upon putting in place new inclusive equipment, clearer and bigger signs outside to direct parents and visitors, and re-locating our welcome and information board to a more accessible position.

Our building is all on one level allowing access for wheelchairs, and also has a disabled toilet. Fire alarm systems are supplemented with visual and verbal warnings and there is adequate lighting.

We welcome making adaptations to our regularly reviewed newsletter for our parents and carers as needs become apparent, such as using different font, colours, and more visuals or different language to enable inclusivity. We can also provide a visual review of the activities that a child has enjoyed during their session which is printed in their home language and sent home.

With parental permission we liaise with outside professionals and settings who are involved with the child, to share strategies and discuss any specialist equipment that may be required. These are incorporated into the child's routine when needed. For example, we have used ear defenders, weighted blankets and specialist chairs. Also pop up tents to create a calming personal space. The SENDCo has also joined the Inclusive Communication Essex service at the local library which provides a lending service for support equipment such as dual language books, recording communicators, electronic visual aids and electronic toys.