

Ladybird Montessori Equal opportunities Policy

Policy statement

We will ensure that our nursery is fully inclusive in meeting the needs of all children. We will operate according to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 so that parents and carers can place their child with us.

Our setting is committed to anti-discriminatory practice to promote equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all children and families. We aim to:

- provide a secure and accessible environment in which all our children can flourish and in which all contributions are considered and valued;
- include and value the contribution of all families;
- provide positive non-stereotyping information about gender roles, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and disabled people;
- improve our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and valuing diversity; and make inclusion a thread that runs through all of the activities of the setting.

Admissions

Our setting is open to all members of the community.

- We provide information in clear concise language in spoken and written form.
- We base our admissions policy on a fair system.
- We display our equal opportunities policy in our parent folder.
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our setting, on the basis of colour, ethnicity, religion or social background, such as being a member of a Travelling community or an asylum seeker.
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to our setting for a reason relating to disability.
- We take action against any discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents. Displaying of openly discriminatory and possibly offensive materials, name calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on the premises.

Employment

- All applicants are judged against explicit and fair criteria.
- Applicants are welcome from all backgrounds and posts are open to all.
- The applicant who best meets the criteria is offered the post, subject to references and checks through the vetting and barring bureau.

Training

- We regularly attend inclusion training to keep up to date on equality issues.
- We ensure that staff are confident and fully trained in administering relevant medicines and performing invasive care procedures when these are required.
- We review our practices at meetings and informally on a day to day basis to ensure that we are fully implementing our policy for promoting equality, valuing diversity and inclusion.

Extended activities and festivals

The learning opportunities offered in the nursery encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

Our environment is as accessible as possible for all visitors and service users. If access to the settings is found to treat disabled children or adults less favourably then we make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of disabled children and adults. We do this by:

- making children feel valued and good about themselves;
- ensuring that children have equality of access to learning;
- avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials;
- celebrating a wide range of festivals;
- creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance;
- helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable;
- ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and disabilities;
- ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning; and ensuring that children speaking languages other than English are supported in the maintenance and development of their home languages.

Valuing diversity in families

- We welcome the diversity of family lifestyles and work with all families.
- We encourage children to contribute stories of their everyday life to the setting.
- We encourage parents/carers to come into the setting.
- For families who speak languages in addition to English, we will develop means to ensure their full inclusion.

Food

- We work in partnership with parents to ensure that the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met.
- We help children to learn about a range of food, and of cultural approaches to mealtimes and eating, and to respect the differences among them.
- *Monitoring and reviewing*
- To ensure our policies and procedures remain effective we will monitor and review them annually to ensure our strategies meets the overall aims to promote equality, inclusion and valuing diversity.
- We provide a complaints procedure and a complaints summary record for parents to see.

Updated by C. Henderson 1/11/15