

DINGLEY'S PROMISE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

Dingley's Promise have over 40 year experience supporting children with SEND in the early years via specialist SEND nurseries, which provide tailored individualised support for children to identify needs and meet these effectively in a nurturing and inclusive environment. During the pandemic we increased our community support and this outreach programme has now expanded to offer a range of different services which work alongside and compliment the local authority support in the area. We are currently supporting hundreds of families each year through the programme, creating strong multi-agency partnerships with a aligned commitment to improving long-term outcomes for children with SEND in the early years, giving them the best start in life and equipping their families with confidence and a network of support to help their child to thrive.

We work within 7 local authority areas, providing tailored family support services in and around our 12 specialist centres, as well as providing support and to local authorities around sufficiency of places for children with SEND, streamlining systems and collaborative working.

We have produced documents for Childcare Works to support inclusion in Local Authorities and Settings. <https://childcareworks.org.uk/hub-for-providers/introduction/>

FAMILY COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH DINGLEY'S PROMISE

Dedicated SEND Outreach FSW

- Bespoke 1:1 support tailored to family needs
- 3 home visits over 6 weeks
- Collaborative family plan linking to local services
- Focus on breaking down barriers and ensuring full entitlement of hours

Stay and Play Session:

- SEND Stay & Play Sessions per led by a fully trained Family Support Worker (FSW).
- Social opportunities for parents and children
- Sessions tailored to children's emerging needs
- Access to our unique SEND curriculum
- Multi-agency engagement to reach the most marginalised families

Monthly Parent Information Sessions

- In-person sessions monthly
- Online session monthly Topics include: transitions, sensory processing, toileting, play, and regulation strategies

Connect Sessions for families with specific needs

- Tailored to specific needs of cohorts of families such as EA, financial hardship etc





DINGLEY'S PROMISE CASE STUDIES

Benefits of this approach:

- Personalised support for complex needs
- Stronger engagement with local services
- Improved access to education and health provision
- Early identification of needs
- Improved parental confidence and wellbeing
- Safe, inclusive learning and social environment
- Flexibility to work within different LA systems
- Enhancing current early years service delivery
- Collaborative approach across early years teams

DINGLEY'S PROMISE READING

Case Study: Family Support Worker, Kathryn

“At the beginning of the year I started supporting a family whose child attends a mainstream nursery setting. Mum reached out to us looking for support as she was noticing that her child may have sensory differences and was displaying some challenges that she wanted support with.

When I first met mum she had very little support in place and was feeling overwhelmed with where to go for support and how to address the challenges she was facing. At the start of our support child L was not toilet trained, he was putting unsafe objects in his mouth and his diet was very limited.

I supported Mum with 1:1 meetings to discuss strategies and information to support her child's needs. She attended a toileting support workshop we did and implemented the practical changes we recommended. Mum has also used the information and activities from the nutrition workshop and stay & play to start, to introduce new foods to her child's diet and to explore foods with him in different ways.

Over the course of our support child L has started to use the toilet and is making real progress in expanding his diet, making mealtimes less stressful for us. Mum has developed a greater understanding of her child's sensory needs and is able to support these more effectively. She has bought safe alternatives for his oral sensory seeking, as well as for his other sensory seeking actions. In addition to this I have supported her with paper work, for example with an application to CAMHS and an EHCP Parental request.”

“The Family support has been both invaluable and outstanding. She is an expert in her field. Any subject you touch on she is able to provide knowledge and impartial advice. Her knowledge, empathy and understanding is outstanding.”

“If you could clone our Family Support Worker so that many more people in other geographical locations could receive her support the world would be a better place”

Dingley's Promise Outreach Parent