



Education & Cultural Services

Policy: Home Teaching Service for Pre-School Children with Additional Learning Needs, and their families

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Service: Additional Learning Needs

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1. Introduction

The Home Teaching Service is part of Outreach Services and is based at Beattie School Campus.

It is nationally recognised that all services working with children who have Additional Learning Needs should work together in a co-operative way to the ultimate benefit of the child. It is for this reason that Beattie School Campus was established. It accommodates the following services:

- First Steps, a voluntary organisation playgroup for children with additional learning needs;
- Child Development Centre (CDC). which includes consultant paediatricians, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists as well as education staff;
- Beattie School, an educational provision for children aged 3 - 18 who have severe and complex needs;
- The Access Service which helps children with additional needs usually of a physical nature, to integrate into mainstream schools by advising on building adaptations, equipment etc
- The Pre-School Home Teaching Service for Children with additional learning needs.

The aim is to create an environment which will facilitate joint working.

The service is mainly for children of pre-school age who have additional needs, who do not yet attend a Council or partnership nursery - and of course their families.

The Pre-School Home Teaching Service (ALN) acts upon the principle that parents/carers and professionals in local authorities, schools and support services work with relevant voluntary and health sector organisations in a spirit of inclusion, partnership and collaboration. The contribution which each makes is valued equally and regarded as complementary.

2. Operation of the Service

The Home Teacher / Nursery Nurse may adopt any one of a number of roles depending on the child's needs, circumstances of parents/carers, the other services already involved with the child and how much time is available. These roles include:

- co-ordinating an Individualised Educational Programme (IEP) / Multi-Agency Support Plan for children in liaison with parents/carers and other agencies to help focus the child's development;
- acting in an advisory capacity e.g. what types of toys to use to develop particular skills and ways of working positively with children;
- carrying out informal formative dynamic assessment through direct play input for children with the parent's / carer's assistance;
- helping the child to transfer smoothly to nursery with minimum upset;
- advising on available provisions;
- making referrals to other services with parental agreement;
- applying for support for children moving to mainstream nurseries;
- delivering in-service training in various aspects of Additional Needs;
- working closely with educational psychologists, speech therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, the staff in playgroups and nurseries and sometimes the Visiting Teaching Services for the Hearing and Visually Impaired.

3. Referral Procedure

The parents/carers themselves may refer directly or other service providers, eg a health visitor, a speech therapist working with the child, the co-ordinator of a playgroup, a nursery head teacher, .may refer. with the parents'/carers' permission.

Direct contact with the service by telephone is acceptable. A referral form asking for information about the child will be sent out following initial contact. The form must be signed by the parents/carers. Referral can also be made by letter if this is more convenient for you.

Contact with the service does not mean that a referral will automatically go ahead. Involvement with the service is purely voluntary on the part of parents/carers. Anyone may phone up just to find out more about the service and what we do or to request that we visit a child and parents/carers at home for the same reason. If at that point the parents/carers feel that they require our involvement then we will process a referral. If not, then a contact number will be left just in case circumstances change and parents/carers wish to get back to us at some point in the future.

4. Contacts

Carol Andrew (teacher) or Linda Nunn (Nursery Nurse).

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