

Inclusion Policy for Children with Additional/Special Needs

Tir na nOg preschool recognises and respects the rights of all children and adults regardless of their abilities. We value the ability and individuality of all children by providing each child with the opportunities they need to reach their full potential as active learners within an inclusive ethos/culture. We aim to actively promote equality of access and participation to all children. This policy represents the agreed principles and commitment for inclusion, in line with Early Childhood Care and Education National Inclusion Charter.

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 29 & 30), the Disability Act 2005 and the Special Needs Legislation -EPSEN Act 2004.

Tir na nOg preschool is committed to working in partnership with parents to support children's abilities, identity and sense of belonging. We will support families in their parenting role while respecting their values and beliefs about childrearing. We will support children to become respectful of difference and foster each child's critical thinking in order to confront bias and discrimination. We will implement a curriculum that meets the individual needs and emerging interests of all our children, regardless of their abilities, under *Siolta, The National Quality Framework (2006)* and *Aistear: The National Curriculum Framework (2009)* and respond to children's diverse and individual learning needs and styles through an emerging curriculum.

We will respond appropriately and sensitively to any additional needs a child may experience. Additional needs may include any change introduced into the child's life, such as a new sibling, moving house, absent parent or a situation that may call for a long-term care plan such as asthma, allergies, disability, development delay and medical conditions.

We will support continual development for all our staff so as to ensure they are trained in an equality and diversity approach to providing care and education to all.

When a child with an additional need starts in our service we will liaise closely with the parents and any professionals who work with the child to ensure we have all the information and help that we require to provide a fully inclusion experience for any child in our service who has an additional need. We will engage with the AIM module to provide as much help as possible for any child that requires additional help.

All children attending Tir na nOg Preschool are supported to

- Feel secure and know that their contributions are valued.
- Know they belong and are valued as unique individuals
- Feel strong and confident about their identity
- Learn in groups that allow them all to experience success
- Have a common curriculum experience that allows for a range of different learning styles.
- Participate fully, having particular regard for and being cognisant of children with a variety of disabilities.
- Respect the purpose for which other children's aids or assistive technology are intended.

The inclusion Co-ordinator within our service is Anne Smyth