**Additional Needs and Inclusion Policy**

1. Introduction

Abbeymead Under 5’s is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive environment where every child, regardless of their individual needs or abilities, can fully participate and thrive. This Additional Needs and Inclusion Policy outlines our approach to accommodating children with additional needs and fostering an inclusive atmosphere.

2. Aims

The primary aims of this policy are as follows:

2.1. To ensure that children with additional needs are treated with respect, dignity, and equality.

2.2. To create an inclusive setting that promotes the holistic development of all children, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.

2.3. To collaborate closely with parents, guardians, and relevant professionals to provide tailored support for children with additional needs.

3. Identifying Additional Needs

3.1. Early Identification: Abbeymead Under 5’s will work in partnership with parents and guardians to identify any additional needs or disabilities that a child may have as early as possible. This may include communication and language delays, motor skill difficulties, sensory sensitivities, or other developmental concerns.

3.2. Professional Assessments: When necessary, we may seek assessments and guidance from relevant professionals, such as speech therapists, occupational therapists, or educational psychologists, to better understand and address a child's needs.

4. Inclusion Strategies

4.1. Supporting Children: Abbeymead Under 5’s will develop and implement support plans for children with additional needs, in consultation with parents or guardians and relevant professionals. These plans will outline specific goals, strategies, and accommodations to support the child's development with support of the graduated pathway.

4.2. Adapted Resources and Activities: We will adapt our resources and activities to ensure that children with additional needs can actively participate and engage in all playgroup experiences.

4.3Training and Development: Playgroup staff will receive ongoing training and professional development to enhance their knowledge and skills in supporting children with additional needs and promoting inclusion.

5. Communication and Collaboration

5.1. Regular Communication: Abbeymead Under 5’s values open and transparent communication with parents or guardians. We will maintain regular dialogue to discuss a child's progress, address concerns, and share strategies for consistent support.

5.2. Collaboration with Professionals: We encourage collaboration with external professionals, as needed, to provide the best possible support for children with additional needs. This includes therapists, health visitors, and early intervention teams.

6. Confidentiality and Privacy

6.1. Confidentiality: All information regarding a child's additional needs and support plans will be handled with the upmost confidentiality, and access to this information will be restricted to relevant staff and professionals.

7. Review and Monitoring

This Additional Needs and Inclusion Policy will be regularly reviewed and updated, ensuring that it aligns with current best practices and legislation. Parents, guardians, and staff will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input during these reviews.

Abbeymead Under 5’s is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where all children are given the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their individual needs. Through collaboration, adaptability, and ongoing support, we strive to create a playgroup that celebrates diversity and embraces inclusion.