





Chichester

Nursery School  
Special Support Centre

“Best nursery! They have the most friendly and supportive head teacher and staff. They also have a beautiful garden!”

The Special Support Centre (SSC) is for children with significant speech and language needs and for those who have social communication difficulties. These children are referred to the SSC by a Speech and Language Therapist.

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## The Special Support Centre

The SSC is based within Chichester Nursery School, in Chichester. The team within the Centre is staffed by a qualified Teacher, Nursery Nurse and a Speech and Language Therapist, with additional Nursery Assistants supporting your child when needed.



## Specialist Support

Children in the SSC will receive support for a range of speech and language difficulties and support in communicating their wants, needs and feelings appropriately to others. Each child will be supported in playing with others, communicating and following routines in the way that best suits them. The staff in the Centre will tailor the learning and support to each child's needs and interests daily.

## Working with Parents and Carers

We use a variety of methods to inform you about what is happening at Nursery and to update you on your child's progress. These include communication books, newsletters, daily/weekly face to face conversations as needed, phone calls, your child's portfolio, parents' evenings, an app for your mobile device and Facebook.

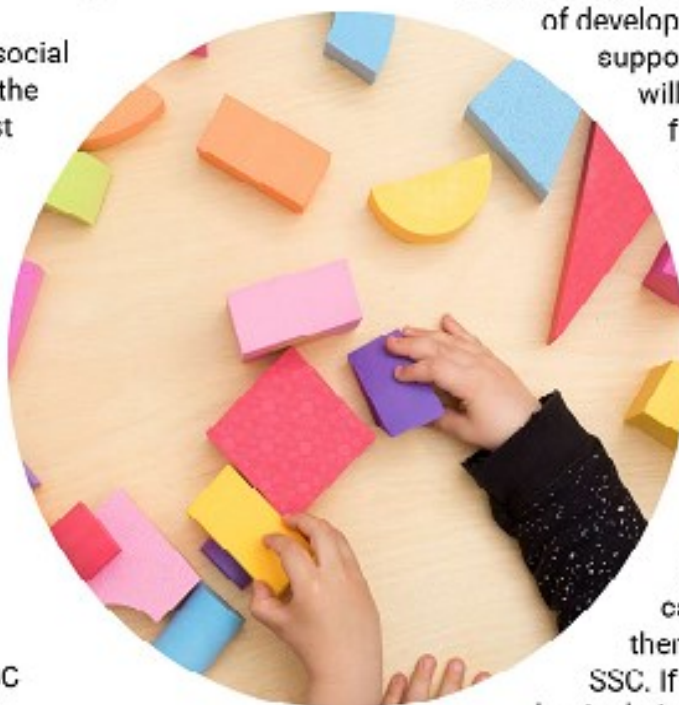
We try to contact parents/carers as frequently as possible and encourage families to contact the SSC team if they have any questions, comments or concerns, (our contact details are on the last page).

We provide home activities and/or ideas to support your child's development at home, based on their individual needs and targets.



## Supporting Your Child in the SSC

When your child starts you will be offered a home visit. We find these visits help the child to settle and help to build a special relationship between the family and staff. Your child's speech and language skills and/or social communication difficulties will be assessed by the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) in the first half term, with support from any outside agencies linked to your child's development. The SLT and Teacher in Charge of the SSC will then agree targets with you for your child to work towards. These targets form a targeted support plan and are reviewed and updated throughout the year. The SSC team will focus on these targets individually and/or in small groups. This will be during play and/or more structured sessions, depending on what works best for your child. Therapy from the SLT will take place 2-3 times a week. The rest of the time your child will continue to receive support from the SSC and Nursery team. The Nursery practitioners and SSC staff use a range of supplementary methods of communication, such as Makaton sign language and visual aids, including timetables and 'now and next' boards, to support understanding, behaviour, communication and social skills.



## A Session in the SSC

Parents/carers and their children will register with their child's Teacher in the SSC. Activities tailored to their interests and stage of development will be available for them to engage with, supported by an adult some of the time. The children will be gradually integrated into the main Nursery for free flow play, with support from the SSC staff. The integration process will be tailored to your child's needs. Each child will be supported and extended through play in the main Nursery or in the SSC group room, depending on where they choose to be. They will also have some time in our sensory room and garden. We will be doing small group or individual work with your child in the SSC, which will be planned and delivered according to your child's individual needs, targets and learning style, during the session. At the end of the session the whole group will come together for a carefully planned group experience. Each child will then be collected by their parent or carer from the SSC. If your child is staying all day then they will either begin their day in the main Nursery School and transition to the SSC after lunch, or begin their day in the SSC and transition in to the main Nursery School after lunch. Your child will be greeted by their Keyworker at the beginning of the session, in the main Nursery School and supported by a SSC Nursery Assistant, when needed.



## Transition to School

Either before, or at the time of referral to the SSC, your child will be referred to the Early Years Planning and Review meeting (EYPARM) to determine whether they will need extra support in school. This may lead to a consultation with an Educational Psychologist. We will discuss your child's school options after your child starts in the SSC. When the children leave the SSC at the end of the summer term to go to school, the SSC team will provide a transition meeting with the new school, the child's parents/carers, the SSC team and any outside agencies involved with the child's care and development. We will also support your child by visiting their new school with them and creating a brochure about their new school that they can look at in Nursery and at home.



## Attendance

Children attend the SSC five sessions per week. There are sixteen places available in the SSC. Eight children can attend the morning session from 9 am until 12 pm and another eight children can attend the afternoon session from 12:45 pm until 3:45 pm. Your child's SSC space is covered by their first fifteen hours of free entitlement. If you would like your child to do extra sessions, or they are eligible for thirty hours free entitlement, then a place in the main Nursery will be made available to them for those extra hours.

*“Just incredible!  
This place has such a good heart,  
coming from caring staff and  
dedication, my daughter can't  
wait to go each day.”*