



Safeguarding Disabled Children at Play in Dore Oct 2015

Disabled children and their families have additional needs that make it even more important that they can access quality Early Years services

Impact on parents of having a disabled child

- Shock to parents on realising that their child is disabled
- Coming to terms with this and grieving for the child they were expecting
- Some parents may find it difficult to accept that they have a disabled child
- They may need additional support
- The pressures may impact on parents' physical and emotional well being and mental health
- May impact on the parenting capacity of parents

Added pressures on parents of a disabled child

- Involvement from lots of agencies
- Pressure of attending multiple appointments
- The expectation to attend planning and review meetings
- Programmes to be followed through at home as well as in the Early Years setting
- Possibility of continuing high level of dependency on parents beyond childhood

Child Abuse and Disability

Research tells us that disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse than non-disabled children because;

- They often need more personal care
- They are less likely to receive adequate sex education or information about their own bodies
- They may be more physically and socially isolated
- They are more likely to have multiple carers and spend time in residential care
- They may not be able to get out of the way or tell anyone about what is happening
- Carers may feel that maltreatment matters less with disabled children
- Indicators of abuse are explained away by others as a consequence of disability



How Play in Dore supports disabled children

- **Plan in advance** so that our setting can meet the needs of any child that might want to use our service.
 - Use our local **Early Years Inclusion Teacher** to find out about the support systems in your local area to help you meet the needs of disabled children. Each service district has an Early Years Inclusion Teacher who is also the SENCo for the area. Contact the Early Years Inclusion Team (based at Prince Edward Specialist Support Services tel. 2398336)
 - Your local Early Years Inclusion Teacher runs **regular meetings for Early Years SENCos** in your local area (at least one every term). By attending these meetings our setting can access useful training and other services.
- The Early Years Inclusion Team offers **training for settings** about anything to do with meeting the needs of disabled children in the early years.
 - If a disabled child uses our setting, it is important to find out **what other services are already working with the child** and if he/she already has an Early Support key worker
 - **Signpost parents to specialist sources of support** for them e.g. Sheffield Information Giving Network (SIGN); see below

Useful links/resources

Sheffield Early Years Inclusion Team
(based at Prince Edward Specialist Support Services) tel. 0114 2398336

Sheffield Information Giving Network (SIGN), information service for disabled children, young people and families tel. 0114 266 9476 or contact via www.sheffinfolink.org.uk

ASK Sid, website with links to SIGN and other organisations who may offer support www.asksid.net