

# LASER SUMMER CAMP

## SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY



# Laser Summer Camp – Special Needs Policy

***Focus for standard – Children with special needs have the right to be included and for their needs to be met. These needs are most likely to be met where the registered person and staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of the individual needs of every child in their care. They work together with Parents and other relevant parties to organise the environment and plan activities to ensure all children take part at a level appropriate to their needs.***

Laser Summer Camp – understand that all children are individuals, and that some have different 'needs' to others.

The 'active' setting of the summer camp could be considered by some parents as inaccessible to their children, but we allow them to make that decision.

We realise that children will have different needs, and we are aware that these needs can be mental, physical and educational. As we are an out of school day care provider, we do not feel it necessary to address special **educational** needs, due to the fact that the children are not being assessed on their educational performances.

**Laser summer camp, as a private limited company, does reserve the right to refuse any application for booking, if the child presents a special need that we as professionals do not feel we can cope with in a summer camp environment. We are more than happy to consult fully with parents, and make adjustments that do not affect the other children on camp. The parents must fund additional staffing, if necessary for the child with a special need.**

## **1. ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PREMISES AND FACILITIES – PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Exeter School** has full access to all, and with a thorough assessment of the school campus, I conclude that Laser Summer Camp can offer places to any individual, with whatever special need – be it physical or mental. Exeter school has full access to wheelchair users.

As an out of school day-care provider, we are committed to aiming to provide for all children, whatever their need. However, as we only function for 4 weeks of the year, we understand that there might be some children that we would be unable to offer places for<sup>1</sup> and we are assuming that the parents of children, with needs beyond our means, will be happy to accept this. However, we are more than willing to work closely with parents on this matter. If they feel that their child would truly benefit from being within such an active environment, and that they can organise extra provision of care, we are more than happy to accept their booking.

As a private limited company, we are unable to fund the provision of a one-to-one day care assistant. If there is the need for specialist equipment, we are more than happy for parents to provide this equipment, providing they give us full instruction on use. Any equipment that demands technical proficiency, and could be classed as a risk if misused or tampered with by small children, will not be allowed on camp.

<sup>1</sup> This would be a situation that arises that, once we have explained how our camp operates, the parent feels that it would be an hindrance to our other patrons as a 4 week per annum day care provider. It also refers to our right as a private day care company to refuse application on the grounds that the child's special need would considerably hinder the day-to-day running of the group and the enjoyment of others in the group.

## **2. STAFF ARRANGEMENTS**

Laser Summer Camp fully understands that all staff need sensitivity and knowledge to work with children with any special needs, whether it be physical, mental or educational.

At our staff briefing we highlight the importance of understanding that each child is an individual, and that they must conform to a certain extent to the summer camp environment.

If we are presented with a child with a specific need, G.Baily and W.Mugford will gather as much information as possible from parents, and with parental advice, other sources, to allow us to inform our staff the best ways to deal with the child's individual needs

Laser Summer Camp works on a low ratio of staff to children, and we feel that from this any child will benefit within the summer camp environment.

After a full assessment by G.Baily, and after consultation with parents, if we feel that additional staffing is necessary, the parents will fund this. They will also advise and bring in a professional that is trained and able to deal with their child's special need. G.Baily must make all the usual checks necessary for a member of staff working with children.

## **3. INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Laser summer Camp is aware that all children need to be valued and included. Within a summer camp, we feel that we can offer a relaxed and fun environment that would be of benefit to all children. Our open booking policy allows for application from any parent, and has a section to explain any medical needs, and special needs. Due to the personal nature of our booking system – Wendy Mugford can then contact the parents to discuss any special needs.

Wendy Mugford will explain that as we are not an educational establishment, and therefore educational needs is not a distinct issue. She will explain how we operate within a relatively active environment, however that we offer a full range of activities to all children, and that those that wish to not be actively involved, for whatever reason, will not be discriminated against. From explaining this we then allow the parent to make the decision of whether or not to send their children onto camp.

We feel that we can adapt some of our activities to allow access to children with special educational needs, and we would do this after we have explained each activity to parents, and then taken their advice on how to adapt. We must highlight that we are a private company, and due to the other children paying to be on camp, and also wanting to be valued and included, we cannot adapt the activity beyond their enjoyment also. We are happy to make home visits to assess whether or not we will be able to include the child. These will be made by Graham Baily, and/or Wendy Muugford.

We use minibuses for off-camp activities (for 8 year olds upwards), and would be more than happy to consult with parents and other authorities on the transport of children with a physical special need. Again, we must highlight that this must not hinder the enjoyment and accessibility to all activities of **all** children on camp.

## **4. ADMISSION POLICY – CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS**

Due to our **individual booking system**, and the fact that camp runs for only 4 weeks of the year, we feel we are able to take all the details necessary to have a full understanding of any

specific needs of a child on camp. Due to our personal approach to booking, we feel that both we as child care providers and the parents have a very positive beneficial outcome from this.

We must highlight that we are obviously only able to deal with each individual child with the information that parents feel they need to share. We cannot account for any withheld information concerning the child's needs, and therefore reserve the right to contact parents and advise if a problem or concern becomes apparent.

## **5. REFERENCE TO CONFIDENTIALITY – PRIVACY**

Laser Summer camp will maintain confidentiality on all matters concerning special needs. Only with full parental consent will we disclose any information concerning their child's special need. Our staff that will be working with the child with special needs will be made fully aware of this fact, and will sign a contract of confidentiality if necessary.

## **6. KEY PERSON SYSTEM**

**Graham Baily** is key person with any matters dealing with equal opportunities at Laser Summer Camp, and is responsible for promoting the Special Needs policy to the staff and between parents.