



Dingley's Promise Comic Relief Early Years Inclusion Project -Transforming early education for children with SEND by building inclusion.

Your Questions Answered



An exciting new project for early years in Swindon!!!!

Who is Dingley's Promise?

Dingley's Promise was established in 1983 by parents of children with SEND and became a registered charity in 1988, when they opened their first premises in Reading. Due to growing demand they opened two further centres in Wokingham (in 1996) and Newbury (in 1997). In 2012 all 3 Dingley's Promise centres were rated as "Outstanding" by Ofsted. Today they are proud to share their expertise through their national training programme, where they continue to share their experience and advice with mainstream settings.

What is Dingley's Promise Early Years Inclusion project?

Dingley's Promise is one of twenty new Comic Relief initiatives involving 46 organisations, spanning all four nations of the UK, over the next five years. With the help of Comic Relief, Dingley's Promise will provide training support to Early Years Practitioners, to improve inclusive practises when working with SEND children.

With the support of Comic Relief funding, Dingley's Promise are working with 30 local authorities over 5 years to improve education and learning development of inclusive practise of those working with Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Swindon has been lucky enough to be chosen as one of the first local authorities to take part in the project.

Thanks to the support of Comic Relief's Change Maker Programme Dingley's promise are helping to transform Early Years SEND Education.

What are the specific aims of the project?

The aim is to increase the number of young children with SEND accessing early years and childcare places through:

- Partnership with Local Authorities
- Meaningful Parental Engagement
- A National Steering Group
- A Comprehensive and Extensive Training Offer

Why?

The current shortage of universal places holds back thousands of young children every year, needlessly restricting them to special education, failing to integrate them into mainstream society, and costing the country millions of pounds. Dingley's Promise research shows that a lack of training and low staff confidence are the main reasons that many settings have limited/no places for children with SEND. The United Nations defines access to quality education as a child's right, yet 78% of LAs have insufficient Early Years SEND places. Only 25% of 3- and 4-year olds with SEND currently access the 30 hours Nursery Education Funding, compared to 75% of non-SEND eligible children. Dingley's Promise want to make a difference and build a movement for greater inclusion in the early years.

What does the project offer my child's early years setting?

- Free online training for the whole early year's workforce
- 10 courses over 5 years covering areas such as: Introduction To Early Years Inclusive Practice, Early Years SEND Transitions, Managing Behaviours that Challenge, Having Difficult Conversations with Families
 - All courses which are a mix of workbook, videos and activities
 - Training that can be completed at practitioner's own pace
 - Learning that is assessed through learners' experience, rather than a formal assessment.

Can everyone in a setting go through the programme?

Yes – We encourage as many people in the setting as possible to go through the training because that is the best way to make and embed change. And the more people that go through the training in your setting, the greater the chance of your setting achieving the Dingley's Promise Master level kitemark as an Inclusion Friendly Setting,

Does everyone need to register individually or can one person from each setting register?

Anyone who wishes to undertake the training should register individually. This helps Dingley's identify how many people from your child's setting have been through the training when they apply for the Dingley's Promise kitemark as an Inclusion Friendly Setting.

Can parents take the course?

Yes, they can, should they wish to do so, but the course is designed with practitioners in mind, so those working directly with children will get the most benefit from the programme.

How much will the programme cost?

The programme is fully funded by Comic Relief for participating local authorities, so it is completely free of charge to you/early years settings, as Swindon is one of the participating local authorities.

How will it help my child's early years setting?

- Practitioners will acquire enhanced knowledge and skills
- Practitioners will gain increased confidence in playroom and with families
- Practitioners can learn through hands on experience
- Practitioners will gain a certificate of completion to use in career development
- Whole setting approach to inclusion can be developed – reducing need for 1-1's
- The knowledge and skills gained will contribute to Ofsted's 'Unique child' approach
- Improved outcomes for children
- Improved working with parents

How can my child's setting or I register?

You/they can register by completing our short registration form here: [Early Years Inclusion Programme - Dingley's Promise](#). Once registered, Dingley's Promise will contact you within five working days to get you set up in our Learning Management System and started on the programme. You/they can register at any point

across the time the programme is running for but the sooner it is started, the more time participants have to work through the training programme. Dingley's recommend around 8 hours to complete each course.



WE NEED YOU!

How can I get involved?

Dingley's Promise will ensure that throughout the Comic Relief Early Years Inclusion project, there is co-production with families and each local stakeholder group will be expected to include parent/carer representation. Representatives will be given support through an induction session and regular communication. Representatives will also be able to join a national Parent Board to help oversee and steer the project, as well as enabling representation at our National Steering Group. The national Steering Group will make recommendations to be shared both nationally and internationally, and, where appropriate, will lobby for change.

If you would like to join our local stakeholder group here in Swindon, please contact Ali Shaw, Emma Hathaway or Emma O'Neill on the emails below for further information:

AShaw@swindon.gov.uk

EONeill@swindon.gov.uk

EHathaway@swindon.gov.uk

You can also become involved by simply spreading the word about the project and the training available to your child's early years setting. They may already be part of the project, as we already have 57 practitioners undertaking the training, as a result of our LA marketing, but if they are not, then this is a great opportunity to encourage them to get on board to help us to make early years inclusive practice for all children in Swindon the best that it can be.

Thank you in advance for your support

Swindon early years Quality and Inclusion Team.