

## Introducing you to



Doodles provides sensory arts and crafts sessions for children with additional needs ages 5-13. We run 2 sessions per day, session 1 from 9.30am to 12.30pm and session 2 from 1pm to 4pm. These sessions run on Saturdays all year round. Sessions take place at our Connect Centre, 7 Bowling Green Lane in Newport. Doodles is funded by Short Breaks

We provide children with the opportunity to play and socialise in an environment specifically designed around their needs. Our staffing ratios are always kept high in order that we can make sure that every activity is accessible for every participating child.

We have 4 rooms at Doodles so that we are able to create specific spaces: a room dedicated to craft activities, a session space for sensory trays and group activities such as train track making or marble runs, a white room dedicated to group play games such as board games (and projectors, bean bags and mood lighting), and a dark room to create a sensory space with blackout curtains, projectors, lights, mats, blankets, beanbags, fibre optic lights, cushions, bubble tubes, mirrors, sensory tactile toys, light up tables, infinity mirrors, weighted cushions etc

We create specific stations so that participants can easily see and access what is on offer at any time: a sensory/chill zone, arts and crafts area, sensory bins and themed sensory trays, lego/construction play, group game zone etc

The arts and crafts activities change weekly in order that we are able to ensure that Doodles remains an exciting relevant group that is interesting and engaging to both long-standing and drop-in participants. Examples of craft activities include water beads, glitter calm-down jars, sun catcher painting, coloured salt craft, playdough models, slime making, kinetic sand sculpting, rainbow rice trays, seasonal art activities etc

Children are required to bring a drink with them. Children are not required to bring any food. There is a half hour break between sessions so that staff are able to have enough time to clean down the rooms and all equipment between sessions

We make sure we engage with parents so that we are able to signpost them to services and facilities that they may find useful. We are very proud to have created a welcoming and inclusive environment at Doodles and all staff thoroughly enjoy delivering this service

The children who attend have wide ranging needs, from children who are independently able to choose what they would like to do while they are with us, and also children who require 2:1 support due to medical/behavioural difficulties. Doodles has become an inclusive place for all, no matter on ability, and every single child who attends benefits not only from the sensory arts and crafts we offer, but also from the friendships they have built while they are here. For many of our children, Doodles is the only place they can attend outside of school and we are so proud to be able to offer such a lifeline service to these children and their families

### **Maintaining Standards**

At every opportunity, parents and carers will be asked how they feel our service is going, and if they feel that any improvements or changes need to be made. We will also monitor this closely on a session by session basis. This will ensure that we can continue to provide a service that is really tailored to the individual interests of each participating child, with parents/carers and the session attendees all able to be fully involved in the day to day running of this service. Paper feedback forms are sent out to each family once a year, so that they have the ability to give comments both positive and negative about their experiences with us, while also giving an option to remain anonymous

Due to our high levels of information sharing required within the Company we will be able to constantly monitor and evaluate our service delivery, ensuring that everything we do will continue to meet our intended aims. We want to ensure that Connect IoW remains a company with a truly person-centred approach, keeping the individual interests and needs of each Service User at the forefront of our delivery

### **Costings**

Doodles is charged at £10 per session

If you would like to find out more then please contact Jenny on 07875 949 584 or email [jenny@connectiow.com](mailto:jenny@connectiow.com)

**Doodles Overview last review date: 04.09.2024**