



Sadie is happy and making progress in the warm and friendly environment of Hebden Green School

Danielle and John live in Cheshire with their daughters, Sofia, aged seven, and Sadie, aged five. Sadie has epilepsy and severe developmental delay and is reliant on adult support for all her care needs. She has been a pupil at Hebden Green for the last two and a half years.

Working together

Danielle and John are delighted with Sadie's progress since she started at Hebden Green and believe she is doing well because staff at the school work with them as a team to give Sadie all the support she needs. "They communicate well with us so that we are able to do things with Sadie at home to link in with what they are doing at school which is helping her development," Danielle says.

Settling in

"We were advised to start her in education when she was about two and so she began going to Hebden Green two days a week. After a year we increased it to three days a week and then she started doing four days a week. Now she is full time, attending five days a week from 9 to 3.30 pm. She absolutely loves the school and feels completely at home there," Danielle says.

Happy atmosphere

"We didn't just choose the school because it is close to where we live, we went to look at other schools as well because we wanted the best for Sadie," Danielle says. "We genuinely thought Hebden Green was the nicest school we saw. It has a lovely feel to it and is a very friendly place. Everybody in the school knows Sadie and they all say hello to her and are very helpful to us."

Fun in the pool

Danielle says Sadie is so happy at Hebden Green that she gets excited when she is on her way to school. "She loves going in the hydrotherapy pool on a Tuesday morning, which is good for her as it helps build up her muscle tone. She also likes going on the swings in the playground and has made friends with other children and enjoys playing with them."

Efficient service

Hebden Green have everything the children need for their education and care, with teachers, physiotherapists and nurses all available on site, Danielle says. "They all communicate well and work together to provide everything each child needs. They adapt their services to suit each child, treating all the children as individuals. What suits Sadie might not suit another child, so they pay attention to each child's likes and dislikes."

Topic work

"As part of the educational curriculum, Hebden Green do similar topics to the ones my older daughter does at her primary school but they teach them in different ways. For the seaside topic they had sand, boats and water but taught it in a sensory way, using sounds, tastes and things the children could feel," Danielle says.

Using therapy

"We have seen so much progress since Sadie started at Hebden Green. She has to use a special chair but now she can sit up for a while on the floor supporting herself. They use special therapy programmes to help her development. Her teacher will sing songs and ask her to choose a toy to go with the song to help her learn to make choices. Then she realises that each toy goes with a particular song," Danielle says.

Communicating better

"Sadie likes the sensory room with all the different lights where she is encouraged to reach for objects. She never used to look at things but now she will look and let you know if she wants an item. We know her noises and the teachers have also got to know her noises so she can communicate with us now," Danielle says. "The staff have really brought her on and helped her develop and are constantly working with us to make sure she fulfils her potential."



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