

Early Years Inclusion Funding EYIF

Guidance notes and process

The Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) is funding available to early years providers to support children with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND). The funding is for use in the setting that the child attends and will be given to the provider to be used to support the needs of individual children with SEN.

Background

The Early Education Team recognise that, despite the best efforts of providers to meet the needs of children with SEND, occasionally settings will need to implement strategies that are additional to or different from their typical provision. Therefore, the Early Years Service manages a small budget to enable providers to cater for the support needs of children aged 0 - 4 years old where additional care or resources are required at additional cost.

The EYIF is intended to be used as a contribution towards providing additional resources and support for children presenting with additional needs in the moderate to profound delay range.

It should be noted that Early Years settings are expected to provide for all children regardless of need and this should be taken account of within the business model. For more information, please refer to:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice
- Early Years Foundation Stage

It is important to emphasise that the Early Years Service cannot guarantee that this fund will continue or be maintained at the current levels in future years, and providers are reminded that they have a responsibility to meet the needs of children with SEND. Providers should not rely on this supplementary, short term funding as part of their long term business planning.

Who can apply:

A registered Early Years provider who cares for children aged 0 - 4 years old (excluding children in reception classes) in the borough of Slough.

How the funding can be used

The funding is to support the inclusion of a child with SEND, promote early intervention and improve outcomes for the child.

Examples of how early years providers can use the Early Years Inclusion Fund include:

- Building capacity within the setting with additional staffing to support specific interventions/strategies for the child with SEND
- Specialist or one-off training to upskill whole team or staff member(s) linked to individual child's needs
- Purchase of resources/equipment to support specific interventions/strategies

*Note: All grants are for funding revenue only and therefore cannot be spent on capital projects.

How funding will be allocated

Early Years Inclusion Funding will be allocated on a case by case basis in the form of termly lump sum payments to the setting based on a level of need banding system.

Early Years Inclusion Funding – Tier 3 Emerging Needs

Settings can apply for funding up to £600 per term to enable early years providers to cater for the support needs of children aged 0 - 4 years old with low level emerging needs. The grants from this fund are intended to be used as a contribution towards providing;

- Building capacity within the setting with additional staffing to support specific interventions / strategies for the child
- Specialist or one-off training to upskill whole team or staff member(s) linked to individual child's needs
- Purchasing of resources / equipment to support specific interventions / strategies

Early Years Inclusion Funding – Tier 4 Individual High Needs

Settings can apply for funding up to £1,000 per term to enable early years providers to cater for the support needs of children aged 0 - 4 years old with complex / high levels of need. The grants from this fund are intended to be used as a contribution towards providing;

- Building capacity within the setting with additional staffing to support specific interventions / strategies for the child
- Specialist or one-off training to upskill whole team or staff member(s) linked to individual child's needs
- Purchasing of resources / equipment to support specific interventions / strategies

The panel may agree requests for funding for individual children outside of Tier 4. These requests will only be considered where there are professional recommendations and evidence to support the need.

What can't we apply for?

- Funding for children from the Reception Year of School (Year R) upwards to access provision during the normal school working day
- Funding to support a child where your setting is already in receipt of SEN funding, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is because this provision is already funded by Slough Borough Council from other sources
- Funding for a child accessing a setting outside of Slough local authority area

What are the principles underpinning this process?

- The setting will explore the best ways to meet the child's needs prior to making an application and will discuss this with the child's parents/carers and the Senior Area SENCo or school SENCo.
- Alternatively, the setting will have discussed with the Senior Area SENCo the overall inclusivity of the setting and explored all options prior to making an application

- The setting will engage with outside support agencies to meet the needs of the child/ren
- The funding is intended to be used as a contribution towards staffing costs where a provider is unable to meet the costs from their own funds, and is not necessarily expected to cover full costs
- Where applicable robust risk assessments will be carried out and provided along with the application
- The funding is intended to be used as a contribution towards providing additional resources and support where a provider is unable to meet the costs from their own funds, and is not necessarily expected to cover full costs
- The settings Local Offer must be complete and updated within the last year.

Process for allocating Early Years Inclusion Funding

Parents/carers should agree to the request and should give consent to share information with the local authority.

The early years provider will need to complete an Early Years Inclusion Funding Request Form for each child they are requesting funding for. The request will include detail of the child's level of need, as well as information on how the funding will be used. Please note that this application could be submitted prior to the child's start date.

Decisions about whether to allocate funding and the amount are made by an Early Years Inclusion Funding Panel. They will assess the information provided in the request and make a decision against level of need as referenced in tier descriptors.

The Early Years Inclusion Fund panel takes place monthly.

An Early Years Inclusion Funding Impact and Renewal Application must be completed and returned when requesting additional funding for the same child. The review document will evidence how previous funding has been used and provide update on the child's progress. Early years providers will also be required to provide a Record of Intervention and Support for each term that funding is accessed.

Funding process

Record of Intervention and Support must show clearly where spending has occurred.

Payment of grant

Following the panel's approval payments will be made to providers via a direct payment arrangement that will go directly into the nominated bank account. An invoice is not required from providers. There will be a short delay before payments reach the bank accounts to enable all internal SBC processes to be completed.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the Early Years Inclusion Fund:

Email: eyinclusion@slough.gov.uk