

Early Years SEND Inclusion support for the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector

Information for Early Years Providers operating in Nottinghamshire

Early Years SEND Inclusion Support Funding is available to support the inclusion of children with a special educational need or disability, for their funded hours, if they attend an Ofsted registered private, voluntary or independent early years setting and are in receipt of either 2, 3 or 4 year old funding. Whilst it is the expectation of the local authority that providers will work positively to offer inclusive services to meet the needs of all the children in their care, it is recognised that additional support may, on occasion, be required to meet the needs of an individual child.

Eligibility Criteria for Early Years SEND Inclusion Support

- Child is in receipt of 2, 3 or 4 year old funding.
- Children accessing early years settings in Nottinghamshire.
- Children in receipt of 2 year old funding must live in Nottinghamshire County Council boundaries.
- Inclusion funding is provided for **funded** education and childcare hours only.
- The child meets High Level Need descriptors outlined in the application form.
- The early years setting is on the Ofsted Early Years register.

Support available:

- A contribution towards enhanced staffing costs.
- Manual handling training.
- Equipment loan.
- OT assessments if your setting is charged.

Application Process

Early years settings must apply to the Inclusion Fund using the application form included on the Provider webpage. <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/childcare-providers/free-providers>. All applications must provide evidence to support the application and missing information will delay a decision to award funding.

Applications are considered and funding decisions made by a multi-agency inclusion panel who meet on a 4-6 weekly basis.

Inclusion Support for Settings is aligned to High Level Need criteria for schools and the panel apply these criteria in their allocation.

Applications from childminders will be considered on an individual basis and at the discretion of the panel. Panel members will assess the needs of the child and will also consider the impact on the childminders workload and working practice.

Submission using a secure email account via application form to earlychildhoodservices@nottsc.gov.uk marked 'FAO Early Years Inclusion Fund'

Requests for Specialist Equipment and supporting training

This fund is available to support the inclusion of Nottinghamshire resident children with a physical disability who meet the specified eligibility criteria. This discretionary fund may be able to support the setting to access assessments, training and access to a specialist equipment loan service. If you require this support, please make this clear in your application form.

Children aged 3 and 4 with a physical disability will also be eligible to access the Disability Access Fund if they claim Disability Living Allowance and this must be explored in addition to making this application.

Following your application to panel

You will receive a letter informing you of the outcome of your application within 4 weeks of the cut-off date for applications to the panel. If allocated funding, you will receive a claim form for the first payment period, (see Provider agreement for further information).

Please note that until you receive your outcome letter we are not usually able to discuss your application.

All early years settings in receipt of the Inclusion Fund will have to track progress using the Better Start tracking tool. Early Years providers will be supported to use this if they do not currently use it in their settings.

Meeting the needs of children with physical disabilities.

Early years settings must follow the process above to make an application.

If allocated, a member of staff will visit your setting to advise on what is required. Their report will then be submitted to a multi-agency inclusion panel who meet on a 4-6 weekly basis. They will consider if the requirements meet the criteria for allocation. You will receive a letter informing you of the outcome of your application within 4 weeks of the cut-off date for applications to the panel.

Further information

- For early years settings please contact your Area SENCo or contact Early Childhood Services on 0115 977 2510 or email us at earlychildhoodservices@nottsc.gov.uk
- For parents needing further information, please contact the Nottinghamshire Customer Services Centre on **0300 500 80 80** or Nottinghamshire Help Yourself www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk

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