

INCLUSION SUPPORT FUNDING

Southampton City Council has allocated £100,000 for the financial year 2021-2022 to an Inclusion Support Fund. This is specifically for Early Year's Providers to support the inclusion of 3 and 4 year-olds who are funded through Nursery Education Funding.

The Inclusion Support Fund is for Day Nurseries, Childminders, Preschools, Extended Day Preschools and Out of School Clubs who are registered to take Nursery Education Funding. Inclusion Support Funding must be used to support children with additional needs. Settings must ensure that the children's needs are met in order for them to feel fully included.

It is the expectation of Southampton City Council and Ofsted that all settings:

- adhere to the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Educational Needs 'Code of Practice'
- adhere to the expectations of the Early Years Foundation Stage as appropriate
- work positively to ensure that fully inclusive services are offered which meets the needs of all children/young people in their care

Through planning and organisation most children with additional needs will be able to fully join in with the activities you offer. All providers are expected to plan for inclusion and make example through following your Special Educational Needs or Inclusion Policy, setting aside staff resource such as Special Educational Needs Disability Coordinator (SENDCo) time. Your Early Years' Advisory Teacher or Development Worker can offer support or advice. The Early Years and Childcare Team and the Workforce Development Team also offer specific training. However, there may be times and circumstances when extra funding is needed.

Examples of how the Inclusion Support Funding might be used are:

- the setting's SENDCo having extra time to carry out specific agreed tasks
- a setting wanting to implement a new behaviour policy for the whole setting and needing an extra member of staff for a limited period of time to get it fully established
- purchase of equipment to meet specific needs of a child(ren) which are different from or extra to general resources. **Resources that should be part of your everyday provision will not be financed through this funding.**
- training to support the setting to better meet the needs of child(ren) with SEND
- support for a 3 or 4 year old to transition to a new setting or a new group within the setting
- funding extra specific activities, depending on the level of additional needs in the group

What is considered an additional need?

- for this funding, an additional need includes Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social Emotional and Mental Health and /or Physical and Sensory difficulties and delay
- this funding is intended to support the inclusion of 3 and 4 year olds who have 'emerging' SEND, it is not for 1:1 support or to provide ongoing extra staffing, nor for those children in receipt of EYSS or EHCP funding

How do I apply?

Filling the application form which is downloadable from Southampton Information Directory.

Make sure that you have discussed the application with the child/ren's parent/s and they have signed the authorisation to share the information.

The application form once completed, should be submitted via the Provider Portal or by Encrypted/Secure Email to your linked Early Years Advisory Teacher.

If you have any queries please discuss, prior to submission, with your:

Early Years Advisory Teacher (Early Years' group settings)

OR

Development Worker (Childminders, Out of School Clubs)

How will a decision be made about funding?

A panel, which meets at least monthly, decides if the application is suitable. Please ensure you add sufficient information to your application form on how the funding would be used to support inclusion, and itemise and provide the cost for any resources requested. You will find out within two weeks of the panel meeting if your application has been successful. Your funding will be paid with your Nursery Education Funding (NEF).

The use of the funding will be reviewed at our audit visits.

If your application was not successful, we will write and tell you why.

Please note that funding cannot be agreed retrospectively.