

Early Years SEND Funding

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There are several types of funding available to early year's children with SEND. These include free childcare (you may have to meet a specific criteria for some elements of this), Disability access fund, SEN inclusion fund and early year's pupil premium.

The government offer 15 hours of free childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds, however they also offer free childcare to some children aged 2 years old and offer up to 30 hours free childcare who meet a specific criteria.

You can find out what support is available [here](#).

Early year's pupil premium

Pupil premium is additional payment that can be given to an early year's education setting.

Your child's early year's setting could get up to £342 per year to help with your child's education and this will be paid direct to your provider.

You can apply for early years pupil premium if your child is aged 3 or 4 and you get 15 hours free childcare.

You must also get at least one of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

You may also get early year's pupil premium if your child is currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales or if your child has left care in England or Wales through:

- adoption
- special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order

How to apply

To apply for early years pupil premium speak to your childcare provider.

Early years settings do not receive a notional SEN budget from the local authority.

They have two mechanisms to support access and inclusion. The disability access fund and the SEN inclusion fund.

Disability Access fund

The Disability Access Fund is a one off payment of £800 per year, payable to the early years setting.

The criteria for the disability access fund is:

- The child receives DLA
- They are aged 3 or 4
- They receive free early education

Children who are 4 years old and in primary school reception classes are not eligible for the disability access fund.

If you feel your child meets this criteria then talk to your early year's provider.

Here is the link to [Disability access fund](#).

This fund can be used in making reasonable adjustments to the setting/ or helping with building capacity.

SEN Inclusion Fund

The SEN Inclusion Fund is a fund to help support children with SEND who need additional support.

The following settings can make a request:

- Preschools
- Nurseries
- Childminders
- Breakfast and afterschool clubs
- Play schemes

This funding request should be made by the early years setting and the funds will go directly to them.

The early year's education provider will have to give clear evidence that all resources have been exhausted in relation to supporting the child within the setting when making a request.

You can find out more about the SEN Inclusion Fund [here](#). You can also find the SEN Inclusion Fund application form [here](#).

If you require any further advice please do contact us.

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