

EARLY YEARS (SEN) FUNDING

Local Authorities throughout the country may choose to provide additional funding for early years settings to help them meet the needs of children with significant and/or complex needs. Whilst not all Local Authorities choose to do this, the Isle of Wight Council recognises that some settings may struggle financially to meet the needs of these children, and for this reason Early Years SEN funding was introduced to provide a **contribution** towards additional support for them.

Children with disabilities are entitled, wherever possible, to the same provision as other children; it is estimated that 2% of children will need additional support within an early years setting for their needs to be met. The Equality Act 2010 applies to all providers of early years services and ensures that children with disabilities are entitled, wherever possible, to the same provision as other children.

NB: Mild to moderate speech and language difficulties should be planned for and supported as part of the norm through everyday good practice. Funding is unlikely to be agreed unless the child has significant additional difficulties in other areas.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of the provider to make appropriate provision for all children.

COMPLETING THE FUNDING APPLICATION FORM

Use your observation and knowledge to fully explain the child's strengths and main areas of difficulty. The description should include:

- Specific information on how the child presents and the impact on their development
- What they can and cannot do with and without support
- Evidence and frequency of any behavioural issues
- Any Behaviour Plans
- What advice has been sought, how this has been implemented and what difference, if any, this has made.
- Evidence of at least two cycles of plan, do, review.
- Detailed description of how the funding would be used, consistent with the described difficulties

APPLYING FOR FUNDING

