



Northumberland

County Council

Early Years Inclusion Fund Summary

[\(Early Years SEND Policy and Practice for Pre-School Learners\)](#)

Northumberland Early Years Inclusion Fund:

- Is for 2, 3 and 4 year olds who are taking up free entitlement.
- Is targeted at children with lower level or emerging SEND to support the implementation of strategies that are **additional** to or **significantly different** from what is normally provided under a graduated approach by that setting to other children of the same age.
- Is passed to providers in the form of **short term additional support and resources** on a case by case basis decided by the Early Years Inclusion Panel.

Please note Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Inclusion Funding

Where a setting cannot reasonably offer the necessary additional support to a child with low level or emerging special educational needs from within their own resources and notional SEND allocation of funding, an application for Early Years Short Term Additional Resource (EYSTAR) from the Inclusion Fund can be made via the support of an Early Years Inclusion Consultant.

Early years providers who are delivering the funded 2, 3 and 4 year - old early education / childcare entitlement can apply to the Inclusion Fund. The fund will support children with low level or emerging special educational needs to access their Early Years Entitlement (EYE) beyond that offered in the graduated approach i.e. up to 15 hours per week or 30 hours per week for children in receipt of the additional entitlement.

Decisions about the level of support will be taken by the Early Years Inclusion Panel, supported by the evidence in the EYSTAR application and recommendations from the Early Years Inclusion Consultant involved in the case.

What is the support for?

Inclusion Fund can provide additional support for:

- Staff training
- Children who are accessing their Early Years provision and require time limited support during the early stages to ensure they can access their early education / childcare entitlement and / or allow an assessment to be carried out.
- Specialist equipment to ensure a child's inclusion in an Early Years provision, which cannot be met by existing services.

The maximum grant for training will be £750; the maximum level of funding will only be available in **exceptional circumstances**.

The maximum payments for staffing will be for up to 15 or 30 hours of support at an hourly rate of £10.25. We anticipate that the maximum level of staffing support will only be provided in **exceptional circumstances and for short periods of time**.

The maximum grant for equipment will be £750; the maximum level of funding will only be available in **exceptional circumstances**.

Reviews will be carried out at the end of the agreed period of intervention.

Decision Making

The Early Years Inclusion Consultant will support practitioners to ascertain whether or not the child's needs can reasonably be met via quality first teaching from within the resources of the early years provider before recommending an application to the Early Years Inclusion Fund.

Decisions with regards to spend from the Early Years Inclusion Fund are made by the Northumberland Early Years Inclusion Panel. Decisions are reached through group discussion on the information/evidence provided. If the evidence is either incomplete or inadequate, the funding request may be declined or delayed pending the supply of additional information. Please note all applications must be endorsed by an Early Years Inclusion Consultant.

The Panel will make one of the following decisions

- Agree the application - all applications must follow the flow chart procedure below
- Recommend and support the implementation of an alternative intervention or support from professionals
- Defer the application (usually concluded when an application is incomplete or insufficient evidence has been provided) Propose alternative outcome which may / may not include an element of SEN inclusion funding.
- Decline the application