

# Frequently Asked Questions:

## 1. Can funding streams be combined?

Each Early Years funding stream reflects the graduated response to SEND, so only one funding stream can be accessed at a time. Settings cannot combine multiple funding streams simultaneously. If a higher level of funding is agreed after a lower level has already been allocated, the new funding will take effect from the following term.

The exception is Disability Access Fund (DAF). This is a one-off annual payment and can be accessed alongside other Early Years funding streams, except for Inclusion Funding.

## 2. How long does funding last?

Early Years funding streams are time-limited and reviewed regularly. Funding is continued based on review evidence, ongoing need, and impact of previous funding. Each funding stream is available for a maximum of three terms. Evidence from reviews can be used to determine next steps.

## 3. How is funding monitored?

Providers must maintain clear and accurate records detailing how Early Years SEND funding has been used to support individual children. Providers may be asked to share these records as part of routine audits, funding reviews, or quality assurance processes.

Funding is monitored through:

- Termly moderation
- Data analysis
- SEND reviews
- Evidence of impact (progress, provision mapping, observations)

## 4. If a setting has brought resources with some funding and a child moves setting, who then owns the resources?

Generally, the setting retains ownership of resources purchased. Exception may be if items are highly specialised/personal to the child, in this case arrangements may be made for them to transfer (this is usually agreed case-by-case between settings)

## 5. If you haven't got Targeted 2 funding, is there any other way of getting the reception transition funding?

Not currently. Targeted funding is allocated based on the assessment of the child's needs in their current setting and the provision required to meet their needs at this time.

## 6. Do we have to get parent permission when applying for Early Years Inclusion Funding?

It is not compulsory to get parent permission for Early Years Inclusion Funding as this is accessed via the Early Years Portal. However, we do advise that settings are transparent and ensure parents are involved and informed of any SEND support implemented. To access Targeted Funding, settings are required to gain parental permission/consent before completing a Service Request Form for Early Years SEND Team support or for the Enhanced Provision Funding, the DSPL FIF application form. More detailed information on how to access all funding streams can be found in the Early Years Funding Guidance.

### **7. Can funding be used for 1:1 support?**

Early Years Funding is designed to support additional provision required to meet the needs of children with SEND. While it can be used to supplement adult support, the focus should be on the provision and interventions the child requires.

### **8. What information is most useful to include in an Enhanced Provision application?**

When reviewing applications the Early Years SEND Panel will evaluate

- APDR evidence and review cycles - key interventions and individual provision that has already been implemented
- Specialist assessments and provision recommendations
- The child's level of complexity and risk
- Appropriateness of proposed use of funding

It is important that applications clearly describe the specific provision and support the setting plans to put in place using the requested funding. This should focus on sustainable, inclusive approaches, strategies and interventions that support the child and build staff capacity within the wider provision rather than relying on individual 1:1 staffing arrangements.

### **9. Does the Reception Transition Funding go to the school or the nursery if they are different?**

Reception Transition Funding will be allocated to the receiving school.

### **10. Do we have to apply for Reception Transition Funding?**

No, settings will be contacted directly by the Early Years SEND team. There will be a funding agreement form to complete. This form will confirm that transition plans are in place and the expected outcomes of funding.

### **11. If a child has a delayed start to Reception, starting school the term after they turn 5, will they still be entitled to the Reception Transition Funding?**

Not currently. As this is a new funding stream, we are reviewing the uptake and numbers of children eligible. Once we have more accurate data, we will look at including different reception intakes.

**12. Can I apply for the Reception Complex needs funding for a child who has not had previous funding?**

Reception Complex needs funding should only be considered in rare cases where the child has multiple, complex SEND needs, have not been known to external professionals or received previous funding. This funding must be applied for within the first term of accessing Reception. These cases will be discussed during the Focused Intervention clusters

**13. Can I apply for any other funding to support a Reception child with SEND needs who does not meet the criteria for Reception Transition or Complex Needs Funding?**

Yes, schools can apply for Focused Intervention Funding (FIF) for short term intervention funding via the DSPL application form.

**14. Can I apply for 'Life changing need' funding if a child has epilepsy or similar diagnosed health condition.**

The 'Life Changing Need' strand of funding, is designed for children who have had a life changing event which impacts on their ability to access education. It is not designed for children who have a medical condition diagnosed at birth or in the Early Years which may have a lasting impact on their education. For more information on this stream of funding please see the Focused Intervention Funding Guidance.