

Early Years Newsletter



Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

SENIF is a government funding stream to help providers deliver early intervention for children presenting with emerging or complex needs. This fund is available for children aged 2-4 years who are accessing Early Education Entitlement Funding in Coventry childcare provision.

The majority of children will have their needs met through the differentiation of the Early Years Foundation Stage and quality first teaching. However, it is recognised that some children will need more targeted support. Access to funding is available to Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Childminders, Schools with a Nursery class, Independent and Nursery Schools, who are registered to deliver Early Education Entitlement Funding in Coventry.

SENIF is not intended to provide one to one support for individual children but is to enable all children to access to an appropriate curriculum.

The fund can be used to:

- enhance the level of staffing within the provision
- provide specific resources to enable a child to access the environment and curriculum
- access relevant professional development and training

In order to qualify for SENIF, there must be evidence that the child has needs that require a programme of targeted intervention, which cannot be delivered through the ordinarily available provision. Providers must demonstrate how the graduated approach to meeting the child's needs has been met. A child who is eligible will have an emerging need or additional need in one or more of the following areas identified within the code of practice:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Sensory and/ or Physical Needs

The child will also be accessing additional services provided by Health or Local Authority professionals.

SENIF funds will be awarded in relation to 3 distinct bands:

Band One - Emerging Lower Level SEN

Band Two - Identified Level of SEN

Band Three - Complex Level of Need

Please note: Where an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) is in place the funding will cease.

The remaining Panel Deadlines are:

Autumn Term - Monday 25th November 2019

Spring Term - Monday 17th February 2020

Summer Term - Monday 22nd June 2020

For more details on the criteria, process and online forms please see the guidance notes which can be found on the Special Education Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) page on the Coventry City Council website at

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/senif>