

A Family's Guide to the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)



Supporting Children to
Play, Learn and Grow... Together!

Pre-schools, maintained nurseries, childminders and Out of School Providers can apply for additional support to help them to meet the needs of your child if he / she has special educational needs and they meet the required criteria.

The Local Authority is required to provide additional “top up funding” and support to pre-school settings if the eligibility criteria is met. In Kent the offer is broader. We can provide, financial support, training opportunities and interventions from a SENIF Practitioner in the pre-school setting.

SENIF is only available for children in receipt of the government free early education places at the pre-school / maintained nursery that they attend.

Your setting cannot ask you to pay any additional money for your child to attend because they have special needs.

The “top up” funding allocated to your Early Years setting is not designed to pay for someone to work on a 1-1 basis with your child. Most of the time your child will be supported in small groups with some occasional individual support to work on specific targets.

Your child will have been identified as having a level of Special Educational Needs (SEN) that requires a high level of provision to be put in place.

The Early Years setting will work with you and your child, to identify the provision and interventions needed to enable your child to make progress.

The setting can make an application for Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF), usually once your child is known to Portage or advice has been accessed from professionals and when your child is struggling to make progress within the confines of the advice offered.

For this application, the Pre-school will ask you for your written consent.

Once the application is received by the Local Authority it is considered by the SEN Inclusion Fund Finance Team.

The Early Year Setting could also be offered some core training, relevant to your child's needs, from the SENIF offer free of charge.

Specialist Interventions are also part of the offer which may be requested for your child. The Early Years Multi-Agency Planning (MAP) process considers requests for Specialist Interventions at six points in the academic year. If an intervention is agreed in principle, you will receive a letter from the Special School detailing the offer.

Transport is not provided to Early Years settings or for Specialist Interventions.

