



A Parent/Carer Guide to Kent's Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

- 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 the meet the required criteria.
- The Local Authority is required to provide additional funding 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 in order for your child to attend because they have special needs
- The “top up” funding allocated to your childcare provider 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 is able to make an application for SENIF, usually once your child is known to Portage or a Specialist Teacher 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 County SEN Inclusion Fund Team.
- Transport is not provided to childcare providers or for Specialist Nursery Observation & Assessment placements.
- Specialist Nursery Interventions are requested at the Early Years Multi-Agency Planning Meeting (MAP) that meets 6 times a year. If an intervention is agreed in principle, you will receive a letter from the Specialist Nursery detailing the offer.