

Early Years SEND Offer

September 2020 – August 2021

Information for eligible childminders



“Supporting childminders to support children with special educational needs.”

In relation to COVID-19 some adjustments and changes have been made to the delivery of the SEND offer for Early Years

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Best Practice Guidance (BPG)

Kent County Council (KCC), in partnership with The Education People provides a Best Practice Guidance document and associated training to support childminders with practical examples of universal and targeted ideas to ensure that they are compliant with all equality legislation and are meeting the needs of all children in their settings.

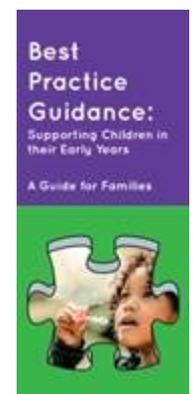
The accompanying audit tools, further support early years practitioners to plan and implement targeted strategies for the child. These have been successful in many settings where they have been used as working documents that capture the totality of progress and interventions implemented for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). They have been used effectively to inform discussions with parents, other professionals and where required, have been used as evidence for ongoing referrals.

The document will offer examples of how strategies can be implemented by childminders.

A parent leaflet is available for you to share with your families and can be found on the link below.

Each eligible childminder has received one revised document, with additional copies available at a cost. New childminders will receive their copy of the Best Practice Guidance once they have signed up for Free Early Years Entitlement funding.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/early-years/equality-and-inclusion/best-practice-guidance-for-the-early-years>



Early Years and Childcare Service Support

The Education People's Early Years and Childcare service continues to be funded by KCC as part of the Early Years SEND offer.

Support to childminders can take place, well in advance of any potential referral for children who are at risk of delay or who may have SEND and is designed to ensure that your universal offer meets the needs of all children.

This support is currently offered virtually, in line with Government advice and can be requested in the same way.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/equality-and-inclusion/equality-and-inclusion>



Training

- ◆ Core Early Years training continues to be provided by the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) this could be virtually or face to face according to local district decisions. Please see list of training websites for each district on page 5.
- ◆ A wide range of training is provided by The Education People via Threads of Success, including Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) and Prime Importance of Communication & Language training. This is a blended offer of face to face, virtual and e-learning training.

<https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/early-years-childcare/early-years-and-childcare-products/products-for-threads-of-success/thread-7-equality-inclusion/>

Glossary

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability

KCC - Kent County Council

BPG - Best Practice Guidance

EYs - Early Years

STLS - Specialist Teaching and Learning Service

SENCo - Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

EY LIFT - Early Years Local Inclusion Forum Team

CCCT - Children's Care Co-ordination Team

NHS - National Health Service

SENIF - Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund

FEEE - Free Early Education Entitlement

MAP - Multi-Agency Planning

MS Teams - Microsoft Teams

DAF - Disability Access Fund

DLA - Disability Living Allowance

Specialist Nursery Provision

Specialist Teachers or Portage Practitioners can refer children for an intervention at a Specialist Nursery via the Multi-Agency Planning meeting (MAP).

More information about the nurseries can be found on KELSI:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/senif/information-for-settings>



Further training available can be found on the following websites for each district listed below;

Ashford - <https://www.ashfordinclusion.org/training-1>

Canterbury - <https://www.st-nicholas.kent.sch.uk/STLS>

Dartford - <https://www.rowhill.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=STLS&pid=86>

Dover - <https://doverstls.co.uk/training/>

Folkestone & Hythe

<http://develop.thebeacon.kent.sch.uk/smile-training-centre/smile-calendar/>

Gravesham

<https://www.ifieldschool.com/page/?title=Courses&pid=50>

Maidstone - <http://www.fiveacrewood.co.uk/online-training/>

Sevenoaks - <https://www.stlsvalence.com/page/?title=Early+Years+Training&pid=91>

Swale

<https://www.meadowfield.kent.sch.uk/index.php/midas-and-stls/professional-courses-and-bookings/>

Thanet - <https://www.lgs.kent.sch.uk/training-brochure-and-calendar/>

Tonbridge & Malling—<https://www.nexusschool.org.uk/1103/training-overview-booking-and-contacts>

Tunbridge Wells

<https://www.broomhillbank.org.uk/1336/stls>

EY Local Inclusion Forum Team (LIFT)

Following advice, support and training for some children it will be necessary to seek professional advice from the Local Inclusion Forum Team. This is a meeting that is chaired termly by the Specialist Teaching & Learning Service (STLS) District Lead of the district that your childminding service is in, for example Maidstone.

The STLS District Lead is a Teacher and part of the Senior Leadership Team of the district special school and STLS. Their role is to manage a team of Specialist Teachers who give advice and support to pre-schools and childminders in relation to the children they care for with special needs.

For further information on EY LIFT please go to the following page on KELSİ;

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/local-inclusion-forum-teams>

EY LIFT Paperwork

There is an expectation that supporting evidence accompanies the EY LIFT request. This can take the form of a Targeted or Personalised Plan, Best Practice Guidance Audit Tools or whatever is specified by your district.

EY LIFT meetings will continue to be held in each district but the format of these will differ from district to district. You will be informed of how your meetings are taking place.

The process for childminders accessing EY LIFT is detailed in the flowchart on the following webpage;

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/equality-and-inclusion/resources>

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced in April 2017 and provides funding to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. The DAF aids access to Early Years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their provision.

Three and four-year old children may be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and
- The child receives universal or extended free early education and childcare entitlement.

The DAF is payable as a lump sum once a year per eligible child. Funding is paid at the fixed annual rate of £615 per eligible child. If a child who is eligible for DAF, is splitting their universal hours across two or more providers, the parent must nominate one of the settings to receive the DAF funding as this cannot be split.

To apply or for further information please visit the following page on KELSİ;

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/equality-and-inclusion/disability-access-fund-daf>

If you have queries please email miearlyyears@kent.gov.uk or contact 03000 42 28 28 and ask for Victoria Bentley.

If a child in local authority care is attending a setting in a different local authority, it is the responsibility of the local authority in which the setting is based to fund the DAF.

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

The SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) is a statutory requirement made available by KCC to enable Kent settings, registered Kent childminders, or registered Kent Out of School providers supporting pre-school children with Special Educational Needs to secure better outcomes, providing SENIF criteria is met.

SENIF can be applied for;

- for a maximum of 30 hours per week pro rata on attendance and eligibility for the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE).
- when the child is in receipt of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for three and four year olds in line with the Headcount dates.
- when the child attends a Kent setting registered to take two, three and four year old children.

For further details on the SENIF pre-requisites and how to apply please visit the SENIF page on KELSI detailed below.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/senif>

The SENIF Hotline operates during term time from 9.00am – 10.00am for any SENIF related queries.

To speak to **Debbie James** (North and West Kent)

03000 418862

To speak to **Fleur Thorogood** (South and East Kent)

03000 418807

Portage

Portage is an Educational Service for pre-school children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, offering bespoke packages of intervention to support a child's development through Pre-school learning groups and or home learning sessions. Portage supports children's learning and development using a small steps approach.

Portage Practitioners work in partnership with families, recognising that parents are the best people to teach their child. Parental involvement is essential in both the planning and delivery of activities to support the child's learning

Since March 2020 Portage Practitioners have been making contact with families via various social media platforms. This has proved to be incredibly successful.

Until it is safe to return to family homes and offer group sessions the team will continue to operate in this way.

Portage will continue to be involved at points of transition for families. Setting practitioners, including childminders, families and Specialist Teachers will meet in the home, at a group session or virtually, depending on the needs of the family, child and the current Government Advice, to plan an effective transition into the setting. Childminders have a responsibility to raise the needs of children who have had Portage at EY LIFT meetings, in advance, or directly with the STLS District Lead so that their provision meets the needs of the child when they start.

Portage Practitioners will continue to support the transition into the early years setting, once the child has settled in, with a follow up phone call.



Portage referrals

The Portage referral form is now a digital online form and can be found on the Kent Portage information page on KELSI at the address below together with further information on the service.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/kent-portage>



Children's Care Coordination Team (CCCT)

The Children's therapies and care coordination team provide a community-based service to children and young people who need specialist help in a range of areas. The team consists of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and specialist nurse advisors, key workers and assistants.

Their aim is to support children and young people in developing their skills to their full potential so children can participate in everyday activities, and this is in partnership with the child's family and other important people in the child's life, for example school, nursery staff and childminders.

If you need to make a referral to the NHS Children's Care Coordination Team please visit the NHS Children's Integrated Therapies website, address below, where you can find the referral form and contact details for each area.

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/childrens-therapies-2/>

