

**Brighton & Hove City Council
Early Years and Childcare (EYC)
Childcare Inclusion Fund
Information for Parents
April 2023 to March 2024**

Thank you for your interest in the Childcare Inclusion Fund. Please read the following eligibility criteria and guidance before completing the application form.

Childcare Inclusion Fund

Childcare inclusion funding is available if you have a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who is attending after-school or holiday childcare which is Ofsted registered or run by schools, and or a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) activity or scheme during the Easter, summer or Christmas holidays.

Some HAF schemes are run specifically for children with SEND with additional staff included and so are not eligible for childcare inclusion funding.

The funding is intended to provide for changes to the childcare provision or activity to make it possible for your child to attend. This might include changes to the building, specialist equipment, training for staff, more staff time or an additional member of staff.

You must pay the fee (if any) for attending the childcare or activity.

Funding is limited and so if applications exceed the amount available in the budget you may not be successful.

Eligibility

If your child has SEND and needs additional support to attend childcare they may be eligible if they:

- have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a statement of SEND, or are currently being assessed for an EHCP, and/or
- are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance

Your child must be resident in Brighton & Hove and aged under 18.

Amount of funding

Inclusion funding is offered at two levels: up to £1,800 a year for if you are not working or training, and a higher level of up to £3,600 if you use childcare in order to work or undertake education or training leading to work. In the case of a two parent family both must be working or training at the time of using the childcare to be eligible for the higher level. If you wish to apply for this higher level of funding you must provide evidence that you are working/training, for example pay slips.

If your child is attending a HAF Easter, summer or Christmas scheme inclusion funding may be paid in addition to the £1,800/£3,600 maximum amount. The maximum amount will only be applied to any non-HAF provision your child attends.

The year runs from April to March. The maximum hourly rate childcare or activity providers can apply for where your child needs one to one support is **£11.42** per hour including on-costs which equates to **157/315** hours childcare for the year.

The level of funding will not be sufficient to pay for inclusion support for all year round childcare.

The maximum level of funding applies across all childcare settings and activities, and so if your child receives childcare or attends an activity at more than one provider this will be considered in subsequent applications. You are also responsible for taking this into account when making an application for inclusion funding.

Inclusion funding includes the summer, Christmas, Easter and all half term holidays, and so if your child is attending a holiday play scheme as well as an after-school club this will be included in the maximum amount allowed.

You are required to advise a childcare provider if you are using more than one setting. You should also monitor the amount of funding your provider has received to avoid any overspend.

Type of childcare or activity

The funding can support your child to attend after-school Ofsted-registered childcare or childcare run by schools or holiday playschemes, including HAF activities. Funding is not available to support attendance at breakfast clubs.

The childcare or activity must be in Brighton & Hove.

Application process

New applications should be made jointly by you and your childcare or activity provider. Applications can be made any time in the year and decisions are usually made within two weeks.

Repeat applications

Repeat applications may be submitted at the start of each term on a shorter form which confirms that your and your child's circumstances and pattern of attendance have not changed.

If successful funding will be paid to the childcare or activity provider directly.

Childcare providers need to meet local authority deadlines in applying for inclusion funding and so please provide any information they require as quickly as possible to avoid their application being turned down.

For further advice and information please contact:

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