

Frequently Asked Questions – Early Years Inclusion (Feb & Mar 2026)

How are children with EHC Plans funded in Early Years?

Funding will continue via the Early Years Inclusion Supplement, using the revised levels and criteria.

Do providers need to record Early Years Inclusion Notification (EYIN) at an earlier point?

You need to notify us if you require funding above Emerging SEND, and this is when you submit an Early Years Notification.

What happens if a child with high levels of need arrives in setting unexpectedly?

The graduated response cycle can be adapted to meet the child's needs. Evidence of what is working (or not) can then support funding requests.

Can Providers check what they have submitted?

Currently not through MS Forms. Under the Liquid Logic delegation, providers will be able to download submissions and the system will track deadlines.

When can providers apply for funding?

Providers can apply when there is evidence aligned with criteria. Exceptions may occur, and Providers should work with the EY Inclusion Team in such cases.

Can Liquid Logic work with Google?

The LA will check with the IT team and provide a further update when known.

Do health colleagues still submit EY Inclusion Notifications?

Yes. Health colleagues are still expected to inform education via the EYIN process for any child who may require additional educational provision. Changes in funding criteria do not alter the EYIN process.

If a child is already known to EYIN, how can Providers be informed?

This will be explored through the work with IT regarding the use of Liquid Logic. C

Will deadlines for funding still apply?

Yes. Funding deadlines still apply because they are linked to wider Early Years Funding and NEF processes. We are working with the NEF Funding team to make sure the dates are aligned and you have clear communication about all dates required.

What funding is a child attending a language class likely to move to?

Depending on the needs of the child, in this situation it is likely to move across to Level 1.

What is the process for making a new funding request for a new child?

Providers can indicate on the Early Years Notification Form what criteria they feel the child's needs meet. This is then reviewed against the evidence submitted, and the level of funding is confirmed via email.

What if a child has been discharged from an NHS service but then has support from a private provider?

All evidence is reviewed, no matter whether it is from the NHS or private provision.

How can we support children we know are starting with us in September?

You can shorten the timescales of the graduated response cycles and access Emerging SEND when they start with you.

When will we be notified about the outcome of funding requests for the summer term?

The Early Years Inclusion Team will review these requests and work out a workable timeline to communicate outcomes to you.

We are sometimes struggling to get hold of the Early Years Inclusion Team. What can we do?

Please leave a voicemail or email the EY Inclusion Team address. We will ensure that time is held in diaries during April/May to respond to queries.

What happens if a child attends more than one setting?

Whatever the child is funded at in one provision is the same level they will be funded at in the other. The funding follows the child's NEF entitlement and is linked to this.

Do you automatically tell us the level children with EHC Plans will receive?

Yes. You do not need to apply for funding when a child has a finalised EHC Plan.

How will we know what funding is allocated?

You will receive an email for new applications, and this will also be visible on the NEF portal. For children transferring across at this time, please check the NEF portal.

What is “Synergy”?

This is another name for the NEF portal. Finance colleagues will know this system as the NEF portal.

Is it still a termly application for funding Levels 1 to 4?

No. You apply once and the funding stays with the child until moderation indicates otherwise, or there is a change in needs.

Do we have to complete an EY Inclusion Notification and an application-based funding request to access Levels 1 to 4?

Yes. The criteria for Levels 1 to 4 all require an EY Inclusion Notification to have been submitted.

For children with finalised EHC Plans, what levels will they move across to?

These will be moved across by the Early Years Inclusion Team based on the criteria and the child’s needs. We anticipate that the majority will move across to at least Level 2.

Can funding be claimed for children in Reception who do not turn 5 until the summer?

No, unless the child is in deferred or delayed entry. This must be discussed with the Area SENCO.

How long after an EYIN is submitted will we be notified of a funding decision?

This will be communicated shortly in line with the deadlines that will be in place.

Is the funding backdated, or does it run from when it is agreed?

Funding is provided termly and is received as part of the NEF. It is not backdated.

What happens for holiday club funding?

Funding can be stretched across the year to enable support for the child in holiday clubs.

If funding is based on NEF hours, will additional funding increase automatically if a child moves from 15 to 30 hours? Will the LA know, or do we need to notify you?

This will be done automatically by the LA.

If a child attends 30 hours but only receives 15 hours NEF funding, what is their Inclusion Supplement based on?

Funding is based on the NEF entitlement only. In this example, it would be based on 15 hours.