

Swindon Sure Start Partnership Early Years Equipment Grant 2011 - 12

Grant Purpose

The purpose of the grant is to support providers to create additional funded 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places in Swindon in areas where there is unmet current, or known future, demand

Eligibility Criteria

Organisation Requirements

- The grant is available to group provision only
- Funding can be awarded to either newly registered early education settings or to existing early education settings where new funded places are being created
- Groups in the private, voluntary or maintained sectors are eligible for the grant
- Applications for provision from maintained settings must be agreed by school governing bodies and be registered with Ofsted where applicable
- Provision must have all necessary legal consents including planning permission where required

Market Requirements

- Funding cannot be offered to existing funded early education places as there is no additionality
- New provision must not adversely affect the viability of existing high quality flexible provision which offers early education to the same age range
- Funding cannot be made for the sole reason that there has been a change of management or ownership
- Funding cannot be awarded where the new provision forces the closure within your setting of childcare (including out of school care) for which there is demand

Service Requirements

- The Early Education provision must be offered to parents flexibly
- Parents must be able to access the Early Education provision on a standalone basis
- A minimum of 10 hours per week per child must be offered
- If the grant is being used to support 2 year old provision the setting must be on SBCs 2 year old register
- Provision must meet SBC's acceptance criteria for 2 year old and/or 3 and 4 year old funding

Quality Requirements

- Providers who are extending existing provision or providers who already have an Ofsted early years registration in a different setting must have an Ofsted judgement of good or outstanding. If the Ofsted judgement is satisfactory, funding can be awarded if

the provision is working at a good level as verified by an SBC Early Years Consultant. Funding cannot be made to settings that have an inadequate Ofsted judgement

- Funding can only be awarded to groups who have or who are committed to having a member of staff enrolled on the Early Years Pathway
- Settings are expected to commit to having at least half of their staff qualified to level 3 or above across the whole setting.

Product Requirements

- The grant can be used to buy equipment only. The equipment must be appropriate for the age range in the application ie if the application is for 3 and 4 year olds the equipment must be suitable for 3 and 4 year old early education use. If the application includes funded 2 year olds, the equipment must be suitable for 2 year olds
- Equipment must be new and of good quality
- The funding cannot be used to purchase consumables (such as paper, pens, craft materials, paint, cleaning products, first aid items such as plasters etc)
- If the funded places are closed within one year of the award of grant, Swindon Borough Council reserves the right to redistribute the equipment to alternative provision

Award amount

An early education place is the FTE number of registered places that are offered by a provider. For example:

A provider offers 24 early education places in the morning and 24 places in the afternoon for three and four year olds for 38 weeks of the year term time only. Funding can be awarded for 24 places

Up to 8 children.....£500
Up to 16 children.....£1000
Up to 24 children.....£1500
Over 24 children.....£2000 (maximum award)