

What support can my child get in nursery?

All Ofsted registered Early Years settings must have arrangements in place to support children with SEN and share information about this with parents / carers. All Early Years settings must also follow the SEND Code of Practice. The code of practice makes it a statutory requirement for Early Years providers to identify children who may have SEN and provide the necessary support. It also states the benefits of early identification and intervention and the long-term benefits of this. A SENCO should be identified and in place to be responsible for SEND within a setting. It is a good idea when your child is first starting out, at a setting, to arrange a meeting with the SENCO to discuss your child's SEN needs. Other funding and support available to SEN children under five includes:

Disability Access Funding

Disability Access Funding or more commonly known as DAF funding is in place to support children with a disability or special educational needs to be able to access their three and four year entitlement. Early Years providers need to be in receipt of 3/4 year funding before claiming. It is the setting's responsibility to identify eligible children, once identified the setting will need to seek evidence from a child's parent / carers that the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). DAF funding is paid directly to the Early Years provider annually as a lump sum of £615. This is to be used for reasonable adjustments for the child. These can include additional provisions, aids, staff training, physical / environmental adaptations or features. Once a setting has received a child's *benefits reward letter* they can then apply to the local authority for the funding. Four-year-olds in reception at school are not entitled to this funding.

Early Years inclusion funding

This funding is in place to support settings in meeting the needs of SEN children to ensure they can access their early year's entitlement. This funding also supports settings to implement goals from professionals and enhance staff ratios at times to support targeted intervention. Settings are required to monitor and review the use and impact of any funding allocated. Some local authorities have different funding streams which allow them to offer this funding in addition to other funding streams such as *high needs funding*.

Free childcare

Parents / carers are entitled to free childcare for two-year-olds who have an EHC Plan, or who receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Eligible parents can get 570 hours of free childcare a year, per child, which is normally taken as 15 hours per week during school term times. All 3/4-year-old children are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare a week. There are no earnings or work requirements to this. If you are a working parent or carer and have a child who is three or four years old, you may be entitled to an additional 15 hour funding on top of the 15 hour funding you already are receiving. The criteria are as follows:

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- both parents must be working – or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family,
 - each parent/carer earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
 - and each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000.

Autism Outreach Teams

In some local authorities there are designated autism outreach support teams who can go into settings and provide specialist effective practical support, interventions, and strategies for autistic children. These teams can also usually provide advice and training to staff. These teams may consist of specially trained teachers, qualified communication support workers and a specialist educational psychologist.

