



Bi-Borough Enhanced SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

2025-2026

This guide contains information about the SEN Inclusion Fund for early years settings and schools

Funding is available for 9 months+, 2, 3- and 4-year-olds with lower level or emerging special educational needs

Date: March 2024
Review: July 2025

Guidance Notes for Enhanced SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) 2025-2026

What is the purpose of the Enhanced SENIF?

This fund is available to ensure the **inclusion** of children with additional needs in early education.

The Enhanced SENIF is for:

- Children who are taking up any number of hours of free entitlement who have lower level or emerging SEN and those who may at a later stage require an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), particularly if they do not receive targeted early intervention support.

Who can apply?

All early years providers accessing Government Funded Early Entitlement funding may apply. Please note that this funding is not available for children who attend a reception class or for children who have an EHCP.

You must have parental consent to submit an application.

Funding Options

The level of funding will be based on the individual needs of the child and will be time limited. Once funding has been agreed, a monitoring visit by your named early years and inclusion advisor will take place each term to determine if the continuation of funding is appropriate. Funding can be requested for the following:

1. Interventions

This would enable the setting to put in place various interventions to support children's needs (e.g. bucket time, language support, social skills groups, language groups, SCERTS approach self-regulation etc.)

2. Training for staff

This would enable settings to identify training needs and book staff members on courses to support children's specific needs (e.g. Makaton, SCERTS, Attention Autism, speech and language training courses, autism courses etc.)

3. Specific Equipment

This would enable the setting to purchase specific equipment to support the child's access to play and learning opportunities. For example, wedges for children with physical needs. **Any requests must be recommended in writing by the appropriate health professional, usually an occupational therapist, and must include costs.**

4. Adaptations to the environment

This would enable the setting to fund small adaptations to the physical environment to enable access for the child, for example, grab rails, ramps etc. **Any requests must be recommended in writing by the appropriate health professional, usually an occupational therapist, and must include costs. It is unlikely that this would get agreed by the panel without this information.**

5. Adult Support

Adult support is available to enable key persons to carry out targeted activities. It is important to note that the funding is not intended to provide continuous one to one support for individual children, but to enable all children to have access to an appropriate curriculum. For example, during small group times you may want to allocate one person to lead the group and a second person to support the children in accessing the group, the funding may support you in having enough staff to do this.

6. Group Funding

This type of funding will be available for small groups of children. Settings and schools will be able to apply for this type of funding to support children through small intervention groups and to access CPD courses to upskill early years staff.

Early Years SEND Thresholds of Needs Framework

This is the key document you need to use before deciding which type of funding and level of support you will be applying for.

Please note that the Early Years SEND panel uses this document to review applications.

The Early Years SEND Thresholds of Need Framework can be accessed here [Threshold of Need Document \(March 2022\)](#)

There are different funding bands:

BAND A - SENIF Group Funding	BAND B - SENIF Group Funding	BAND C - SENIF Individual Application
Up to £500 per child per term		Up to £1000 (this could be up to £1500 in exceptional circumstances – health and safety concerns or complex needs)
Maximum number of applications - 3 per child		

How to apply

Please complete the [SENIF Application Form](#) for individual children (if you only have one child attending your setting or if they fall under Band C) or the SENIF Group Funding Application Form [SENIF Group Funding Application Form](#) (if you have two or more children attending your setting who fall under Bands A, B or C) and send to EarlyYearsSEN@rbkc.gov.uk & SENIF@rbkc.gov.uk as well as your named Early Years and Inclusion Advisor, with any accompanying reports/documents as necessary.

This **must** include an **SEN Support Plan or IEPs** as a minimum. You should also include further evidence of any other assessments you may have carried out (e.g. **WellComm, Observation Checkpoints from the EYFS, Speech and Language Monitoring Tool, Early Years Social Communication Difficulties/ASD Checklist** etc.)

If you have any queries, please contact your named Early Years and Inclusion Advisor.

Factors that can cause a bid for funding to fail

Each individual application will be considered on its merit. It is very important that the application is completed fully and accurately, indicating exactly what is being applied for.

To help you in planning your application, listed below are some factors which could result in a bid failing or being deferred. Funding will **not** be awarded:

- not using the Threshold of Need document
- for 1:1 staffing for a specific child
- to subsidise places
- where insufficient explanation has been given as to how the funding would be used e.g. request for funding for a small group but with no explanation as to what this would achieve
- where inclusion is not the primary purpose of the application
- where funding is requested retrospectively
- for non-specialised resources that should be part of your general provision
- for activities that should form part of your normal provision (ordinarily available provision)
- if the application form is incomplete or difficult to read

What happens once I have submitted my application?

Each application will be considered by the early years panel which meets fortnightly. You will be informed of the outcome of your application within 2-3 weeks of the decision.

How is SENIF going to be monitored?

The monitoring of the use of the SENIF funding will take place termly and will consist of an advisory visit (virtual or face to face) from an Early Years and Inclusion Advisor

where the child's progress and continuation of funding will be discussed. You may apply for a maximum of 3 SENIFs per child.

You may access the SENIF monitoring form here [Access the SENIF Monitoring form](#).

What if I am unhappy with the decision made?

If you have any queries regarding the outcome of your application or the process, please contact Iraklis Kolokotronis, Head of Early Education and Childcare Service, on iraklis.kolokotronis@rbkc.gov.uk.