Early Years Inclusion Access Funding (IAF) – Band 2
Guide for Practitioners in Early Years Settings

About Band 2 Funding

Early Years Inclusion Access Funding (IAF) is a £500 one-off payment. This funding may only be applied for once during an academic year.

A request for Early Years Inclusion Funding (also known as Top Up Funding) can only be made after 3 months (one term) following receipt of IAF. IAF funding can be spent on resources to support a child, such a sensory resource, story sacks, books etc. It can also be used for staff to attend specialist training that is not currently offered by the Haringey SEND team.

Please note: this funding is only available for children in nursery.

Band 2 Descriptor (Haringey Early Years Banding Guidance)

Children make better progress with a personalised programme of targeted support or an adapted early learning environment. Needs are likely to be linked to learning or language delay, or sensory or medical needs that they do not yet have the maturity to manage independently.

Application Process

All applications for IAF funding are discussed at your Educational Psychology Service (EPS) cluster group, which takes place once per half term.

You do not need to prepare anything in advance. However, you must be able to present to the group:

- The child's strengths
- The child's areas of need
- What you have already put in place to support the child and the impact of this support so far

Please use the key documents listed below to support your preparation.

Key Documents

If any of the links in this document do not work, it is because they have been updated. The latest versions are always available on the Early Years SENDO website.[1]

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[1] https://haringey.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/send-local-offer/sendco-space/early-years-sendcos

- [New Banding Guidance for Early Years Inclusion Funding](#)[2]
- [Early Years SEND Best Practise Guidance 2025–26](#)[3]
- [Haringey Early Years Portage Checklist](#)[4]
    - Visit the Early Years SENDCO website and scroll down to 'Early Years Portage Checklist'
- [LEEP Screening Tool](#)[5]

Questions to Consider About the Child

- How old is the child and how long have they attended the setting?

- Have you consulted with the parents? What are their observations?

- Does the child meet the criteria of the Band 2 descriptors?

- Have you assessed the child using existing checklists and screening tools?

    - Have you completed the LEEP screening? If so, what was the outcome? What support has been put in place in the setting following this?

    - Where do the child's needs fall on the Haringey Portage Checklist?

- What strategies have you used from the SEND Early Years Best Practise Guide?

- Does the child have an [Early Years Support Plan?](#)[6]

- Have any referrals been made to external professionals? If yes, what advice or strategies have you used to support the child?

- Is the request for IAF above and beyond everyday nursery provision, resources and equipment?

- What do you hope to use the Band 2 funding for?

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[2] https://haringey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/send_early_years_inclusion_funding_guidance_for_professionals_24-25_final.pdf
[3] https://haringey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/send-early-years-best-practice-guide-2025-2026_compressed-final.pdf
[4] https://haringey.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/send-local-offer/sendco-space/early-years-sendcos
[5] https://haringey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-10/send-leep-early-years-identification-screening-june-2024.pdf
[6] https://haringey.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/send-local-offer/sendco-space/early-years-sendcos