

Transition arrangements for Early Years children with SEND (May 2020)

The following revisions to Early Years SEND transition arrangements are available as guidance to schools and settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. These arrangements are appropriate for transition from both maintained and non-maintained early years providers into reception class.

To date, we are unsure of the government's plans to amend any 'lockdown' arrangements. The guidance is intended to be flexible enough to be used in any eventually and will adhere to government guidance at all times. It covers information sharing, holding transition meetings and revised EYIF (Early Years Inclusion Fund) funding applications.

The following advice should be read alongside the previous guidance provided to all early years providers regarding EYs SEN funding. (Guidance for all EYs SEND funding during the COVID-19 restrictions was sent via Email and is available on [SchoolsNet](#))

Information Sharing

Derbyshire County Council advocate the use of a 'My SEND learning programme' (MSLP) to transfer information about children with SEND from nursery to school. Wherever possible a MSLP should continue to be supplied acknowledging that information may not be up to date.

The DFE have relaxed requirements for EYFS assessment. Information about this change can be [found here](#).

We would not expect settings to be able to provide the most up-to-date developmental information for SEND children not attending nursery. However all efforts should be made to liaise with any specialist services continuing to work with the child and include their advice. In addition, parents should be contacted to gain their perspective on the child's development.

Specialist Teachers in touch with the child and family may also be able to provide supportive documentation for the MSLP.

Transition meetings

It has long been best practice in Derbyshire to hold transition meetings between the early years setting and the school the child will attend. If possible these meetings should be held virtually. Parents and support services should be invited if technology allows.

If it is not possible to follow this guidance, then the setting should telephone the school to update them about the child's needs and any specific requirements the child has. Parents should be informed of this conversation. This will be especially important if the child will need Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) over their first half term in school.

Early Years Inclusion Fund

Early Years Inclusion fund (EYIF) provides support during the transition into a child's first Derbyshire term in school. The application is based on the child's developmental level and progress made towards learning outcomes over the past 6 months.

Unless the child has met the government criteria to attend nursery this information is unlikely to be available, and will certainly not be current enough to be fully reliable. (More information from central government can be [found here](#))

EYIF Transition Request Form

In order not to compromise a child's progress and transition, the Early Years panel will welcome applications for funding through the **EYIF Transition Request Form (COVID-19)**. The EYIF transition request form replaces the EYIF application and evaluation applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst it provides opportunity to complete information about the child, it does not demand the detailed analysis previously required. The Early Years panel will consider information on the form and any previous application submitted when making their decision about funding. The panel will aim to be realistic in its offer, especially if the child has not been in nursery over the pandemic period. Usual ERS/ Element 2 funding conditions apply.

Additional considerations.

The usual liaison with SEND locality officers should occur if the child has an Education Health Care plan. Similar arrangements to the guidance given above will be exercised regarding sharing information and transition meetings.

Equipment transfer or ordering should be done in liaison with special services.

If children are transferring into nursery and have been supported by Derbyshire Portage Service the usual forms should be used and information provided by Portage Home Visitors

Referrals to SSEN should not be made via the Transition request form but during the child's first term of attendance through the EYIF transition to Graduated Response for Individual Pupil (GRIP) application.

If you have any further queries, please contact: Karen.Waring@derbyshire.gov.uk