

## DCATCH - Disabled Children's Access to Childcare

- **Inclusion Support for settings (formerly Inclusion Funding)**
- **Individual Homebased Packages**



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

Children, Families and Cultural Services

## **Eligibility Criteria – Inclusion Support for settings (formerly Inclusion Funding)**

**April 2011 - March 2012**

**Inclusion Support for settings** (formerly Inclusion Funding) is available to support the inclusion of disabled children and young people attending Nottinghamshire private, voluntary and independent childcare settings. Whilst it is the expectation of the local authority that providers will work positively to offer inclusive services to meet the needs of all the children and young people in your care, it is recognised that additional support may, on occasion, enable you to improve the quality of care offered.

If there are some exceptional costs involved in making provision for a child with significant needs you can apply to Inclusion Support for a contribution towards these costs. The application is referred to a multi-agency inclusion panel who make the decisions regarding funding allocations. Inclusion Support assists providers delivering childcare for disabled children and young people while their parents are working or training, and for all disabled 2, 3 and 4 year old children accessing their free entitlement.

Applications from childminders will be considered on an individual basis. The panel will assess the needs of the child/young person and the impact on the childminders workload and working practice when considering an appropriate level of support.

See overleaf for **Eligibility Criteria for Inclusion Support** for:

- A. childcare for disabled children and young people **whilst their parents are working or training**, and/or
- B. **3 and 4 year old** disabled children whilst **accessing their free entitlement** to a funded nursery education place, and children on the **2 year pilot**

**A. Childcare settings caring for disabled children may be eligible for support and/or funding if:**

- The provision is registered with Ofsted on either the Early Years Register or the Childcare Register; compulsory or voluntary,
- The child/young person is under 19 years (support is available until the end of the school year in which the young person reaches their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- The child/young person is resident in Nottinghamshire (or is resident in Nottingham city but attending a Nottinghamshire provision)
- Other than in exceptional circumstances the named child/young person will have been referred to the Inclusion Support Service or a referral will be planned, (this is only relevant for 0 – 5 year olds)
- Parents are in employment or attending a vocational training course. In the case of two parent families this applies to both parents.

**Please note the following conditions relating to family circumstances:**

- Support will reflect the working or training patterns of the parents, for example; part-time hours, term time only etc
- For parents attending vocational training support will normally be limited to a single course or one year of study, whichever is shorter
- Consideration will be given for support of up to two half day sessions (maximum of 5 hours each) per week for:-
  - children whose parents are on maternity leave, for a maximum period of 12 months
  - children whose parents are preparing to return to employment or vocational training for a maximum period of 4 weeks, parents must have agreed their own start date before childcare support can commence
- Support for children and young people whose parents are on long term sick leave will be considered at the discretion of the panel and any funding agreed would be reviewed on a monthly basis.

**B. Settings offering the free entitlement to 2, 3 and 4 year old disabled children may be eligible for support and/or funding if:**

- The provision is on the Ofsted Early Years Register
- The child is resident in Nottinghamshire
- The provider is in receipt of either nursery education funding or 2 year old funding for the named child
- Other than in exceptional circumstances the named child has been referred to the Inclusion Support Service or a referral is planned.

Please note that in the case of a child or young person with a Statement of Educational Needs their home authority will be responsible for funding.

**Further information**

Professionals in settings wishing to apply for the Support for Settings should follow the application process attached.

For parents needing further information, please ask them to contact the Families Information Service (FIS) on 0800 781 2168