

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Special Educational Needs Matrix  
**Accompanying guidance on SEN costings for Early Years Providers**



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**(September 2024)**

## Accompanying guidance on SEN costings for Early Years Providers

Nationally, 96% of all children attend their local mainstream school/setting without an Education Health and Care Plan, this includes those with SEND. This means that the majority of children and young people with SEN will have their needs met through good quality, personalised planning and teaching in a mainstream educational setting, (COP 2015, 9.1).

East Sussex County Council is committed to ensuring age is not a barrier to accessing support at the earliest opportunity and therefore provides additional funding for children who have been identified as having on-going complex needs.

Children aged 0-5 who continue to experience barriers in accessing learning, despite receiving additional SEN support provided from the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF), may need further support. These children with more complex needs may be eligible to receive additional funding from the High Needs Block alongside those children with an Education Health and Care Plan, by applying for Special Educational Needs Enhanced Level Funding (SENELF)

SENELF should be used to provide interventions that are required in addition to Universal and Targeted SEN provision.

In East Sussex, SENELF is broken down into four different levels. For it to be deemed that a young person requires additional funding, settings need to provide evidence on how they will use the funding to provide Enhanced Support. They must also provide information on how it will impact on a child's progress and inclusion.

The SENELF is also linked with the number of hours a child attends a setting, to a maximum of 15 hours or 30 if there is a valid code for Extended Working Families Offer. We can also fund children, from 9 months, who are not yet eligible for EYEE up to a maximum of 15 hours. Decisions on the level of funding to allocate to an individual child will be made by a panel of Education Division Staff and will be evidence based. The funding allocated will take into account the following: Age; Stage of development; Level of need; Current funding levels they are receiving.

The SENELF is designed to ensure an equitable offer of support for all Early Years children with complex needs in East Sussex. Level 3-4 funding is only likely to be agreed for the most complex children whose current support cannot be delivered from within existing funding streams.

Each application should, include details of the specific enhanced provision that will be implemented to support the child identified in the application. It should not include provision at an SEN Support or Targeted level, only that which is over and above this (unless the child is not entitled to EYEE/SENIF).

The four funding level amounts are detailed below:

|                | Hourly Top-Up rate | Total annual Top-Up funding (570 hours) |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| SENELF Level 1 | £1.50              | £855                                    |
| SENELF Level 2 | £2                 | £1140                                   |
| SENELF Level 3 | £2.50              | £1425                                   |
| SENELF Level 4 | £3.50              | £1995                                   |

(see the SEN Matrix for details on provision that can be put in at SEN support, Targeted and Enhanced levels).

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**SENELF should not be used to meet the costs of the following as these are part of whole setting provision:**

- Staff time, including where this is for preparing individualised curriculum
- Strategic and administrative costs
- Any staff meeting time e.g. with parents to review progress or address concerns
- Senco or SLT staff time, for example to prepare paperwork or for a meeting
- Any other posts that would be required as part of the setting establishment outside of SEN provision.
- General CPD costs for high incidence SEN e.g. Autism. However, Staff can cost for key person time to complete any training specified by the SEND Early Years Service
- Risk assessments
- Supervision for staff
- Insurance for staff
- Consumables and resourcing
- Adaptations to environment or building