

26 August 2008

Dear Provider

**Quality and Access for All Young Children – Three Year Allocations of Early Years Capital Grant**

I am writing to let you know about funding which the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) has made available. This presents a really significant opportunity for providers to implement changes to the environment to better meet welfare standards.

Aims of the Funding

There is a total of £2.1 million over the next three years to be spent on capital projects (those with a value of at least £2,500 resulting in a tangible asset). There are three aims to the funding;

- To improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support delivery of the EYFS, with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities and ICT resources.
- To ensure all children, including disabled children, are able to access provision.
- To enable providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

Capital expenditure is not necessarily limited to single purchases over £2,500; the following categories of expenditure are also included:

- **Grouped assets:** i.e. assets of a similar nature are purchased at the same time, for example as part of a project. The value of the individual assets may be below £2,500, but the total value of all the assets determines whether expenditure falls above or below the capitalisation threshold.
- **Bulked assets:** i.e. a bulk purchase of furniture or computer assets where the value of the individual items is below £2,500. As with grouped assets, the total value determines whether expenditure falls above or below the capitalisation threshold.

An Environment Strategy for the Early Years and Extended Schools Service has also just been developed with our partners on the Places Sub Group, a sub group of the Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership. The Strategy describes our vision for quality childcare environments and can be viewed on our website at <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/earlyyears.html> alongside the letter from the DCSF that sets out the detail of this particular grant.

**Value for Money**

Projects that provide the most long-term impact for the investment requested will be viewed favourably. This could include those schemes where the costs are being met from one or more other sources as well as this capital grant.

I should also highlight here that applications submitted after consultation with all partners within your Shared Community Partnership will of course receive high priority.

### **Bidding Process**

A bid form for you to complete is available at <http://www.york.org.uk/earlyyears.html>. Alternatively a hard copy can be obtained from your Extended Schools Remodelling Consultant (ESRC) or Childminder Development Worker.

Executive Member for Children and Young People’s Services and Advisory Panel (EMAP) will decide on the bids.

The following table shows what you can bid for and how much funding you may be able to access.

<b>What you can bid for</b>	<b>How much</b>	<i>What we need</i>
Equipment Mostly portable, including ICT, musical instruments, outdoor play equipment etc plus appropriate storage, such as cabinets or a shed for outdoor toys	£2,500 - £5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written permission from the owner of the premises</li> <li>• Written quotations from 3 suppliers</li> <li>• Short explanation of the impact of this equipment on the quality of provision</li> <li>• Inclusion policy</li> </ul>
Equipment and some minor building adaptations or external work This could include a good-quality outdoor play area, accessible toilet and changing areas etc.	Up to £10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extended Schools Remodelling Consultant (ESRC)/Childminder Development worker involvement</li> <li>• Inclusion policy</li> <li>• Community access to the facility where appropriate</li> <li>• Written permission from the owner of the premises</li> <li>• Security of tenure for at least 3 years</li> <li>• Business plan/strategy for how the quality of provision will be improved</li> <li>• Written quotations from 3 suppliers</li> <li>• Payment will be against invoices and only up to that amount or the lowest quote, whichever is the least.</li> </ul>

What you can bid for	How much	<i>What we need</i>
To assist with minor works for a provider moving on to alternative premises	Up to £20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written agreement of the owner, giving security of tenure for at least 5 years</li> <li>• Statement of partnership working to improve quality and raise standards of staff training and provision</li> <li>• Inclusion policy</li> <li>• Written quotations from 3 suppliers</li> <li>• Payments will be made through CYC</li> <li>• Potential match funding</li> </ul>
To assist with major works for a provider moving on to alternative premises	Over £20,000	As above plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed targets and outcomes to be measured as Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Potential match funding</li> </ul>

*Please note: applications will be considered in batches. Closing dates for applications are 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, 25<sup>th</sup> February 09 and 27<sup>th</sup> May 09.*

#### **Support in completing applications**

Support is available from your ESRC, Childminder Development Worker and the Business Support Team within Early Years and Extended Services. Planning and Resources can also advise on other matters relating directly to capital builds such as planning permission etc. It would be helpful if you could notify your ESRC or Childminder Development Worker of potential ideas you may have. This will give us an indication of the levels of support you may need to complete your bid.

I look forward to receiving bids that meet the agreed criteria and that are also in line with our Strategy. Please contact your ESRC or Childminder Development Worker in the first instance if you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Yours sincerely



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