

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE CAPITAL SMALL GRANT SCHEME 2025-28

PROVIDER APPLICATION HELPFUL INFORMATION

Priority Applications for 2025-26

- Applicants who have not received funding in 2024-25
- Flying Start Expansion Areas (Phase 3) – Elli, Bigyn 1, Lliedi 2, Saron, Pontyberem, Tycroes, Quarter Bach, Hengoed, Glyn, Llangyderyn and Bynea 1.
- Increase number of registered childcare places.

Application - Helpful Information

Panels will be held on the below dates. To ensure timely processing of your application and supporting documents, and to allow sufficient time to address any queries, please submit your application and all supporting documents no later than one week prior to the panel date.

- Friday 1st August 2025
- Monday 1st September 2025
- Wednesday 1st October 2025
- Monday 3rd November 2025
- Monday 1st December 2025

Applicants may not receive their full threshold award in any given year in the event of high application submissions.

- All application sections must be completed in full; no section should remain incomplete.
- Applications can be considered for minor adaptations including additional toilets to increase capacity within settings, painting and decoration inside and outside of settings, kitchen refurbishments etc.
- Identified equipment must be supported with a link to the actual item/s to evidence cost to include VAT, if applicable. **Accurate costs are important.**

- Quotes obtained from tradesmen must be submitted with the application on business headed paper including business name, address, contact telephone number, VAT registration number, if applicable.
- All quotes must be dated and addressed to the relevant childcare provider with a full breakdown of works to be undertaken. Costs must identify if VAT is to be charged within the total cost.
- Quotes in excess of £4,999 requires **three separate like for like quotes**.
- Your application should be supported with relevant photographs (for example if you are requesting new outdoor play equipment, you should submit photographs showing your outdoor area). This will assist panel members in reviewing your application.
- Your application will need to be supported with relevant documents either scanned or photographed and submitted by email as instructed.
- For settings on school sites, permission must be obtained through School Organisation (SchoolOrganisation@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) ensuring Local Authority Property approval is sought for resources fixed within school grounds.
- If there is an unforeseen change in contractor or supplier, you will need approval of a new contractor or supplier from the Local Authority.
- You will be required to inform The Small Grants team of any delays in works.
- We will **not** be accepting any applications for IT equipment or vehicles (unless you are a newly registered setting).

Quality and Longevity

This capital grant has a requirement clause of **5 years**, applicants must consider the long term durability of requested item taking into consideration:

You will need to consider the following before making your submission.

- Is this a larger capital item that would withstand a period of 5 years?
- Does this item meet health and safety regulations and conform to the relative standards?
- Does the chosen company provide commercial play equipment?
- Is there a sufficient warranty period provided?

- Is there an option to purchase environmentally friendly products rather than plastic?

Reputable Suppliers

To ensure that the product meets high safety standards, products must be purchased through reputable commercial early years suppliers, such as:

Hope Education, TTS, Community Playthings, COSY Direct, Cost Cutters UK, Early Years Resources, ROMPA, etc.

Be mindful that they meet Safety Standards and BSN specifications.

Resources are required to be for commercial use and not domestic use to ensure that they are suitable for a high volume of children.

Unfortunately, we are unable to approve items from companies such as IKEA, Argos, John Lewis, Amazon, ETSY, Facebook and private sellers.

Ineligible Items

Funding will not be approved for:

- Indoor children's plastic tables, chairs or storage items.
- Bean bags, indoor sofas, etc
- Tuff trays and mats
- Small toys and resources such as dressing up clothes, dolls, blocks, scissors, cello tape, craft paper, card, games, jigsaws, paint, etc.
- Outdoor and indoor rugs unless they are safety mats.

CHILDMINDERS – Maximum threshold for funding items

- Outdoor mud kitchens up to the maximum value of **£400 inclusive of VAT**.
- Wooden sheds and outdoor storage – providing that they are covered by a 5 year warranty. We will not fund items if they are unlikely to withstand 5 years or more.
- 4 seater buggy/kiddy bus maximum threshold of **£1650 inclusive of VAT**
- Car Seat threshold of **£200 inclusive of VAT**
- Applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

DAY NURSERIES - Maximum threshold for funding items

- Outdoor mud kitchens up to the maximum value of **£800 inclusive of VAT**

- Wooden sheds and outdoor storage – providing that they are covered by a 5 year warranty. We will not fund items if they are unlikely to withstand 5 years or more.
- 4 seater buggy/kiddy bus maximum threshold of **£1650 inclusive of VAT**
- Car Seat threshold of **£200 inclusive of VAT**
- Applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

Please note - The same criteria will also apply to out of school and sessional settings depending on number of CIW registered places and funding thresholds as set by Welsh Government.

Any queries can be submitted to smallgrantscheme@carmarthenshire.gov.uk prior to application submission.