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**Vale of Glamorgan Council**

**Early Years and Childcare Capital Grant**

April 2025 – March 2026

Introduction and Information for Childminder Applicants

Please read carefully before making an application

The Welsh Government have extended Capital funding for the Early Years and Childcare sector for small amounts of grant funding to enhance/replace existing items/fixtures to improve their premises for the provision of childcare services.

All childcare providers registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), will be eligible to apply for a Capital grant. However, applications from those offering one of the following schemes, will hold more weight. These include Childcare Offer and expansion of Early Years provision for 2 yr. olds**.** For those settings who are currently working with CIW to register a childcare setting but require replacing or repairing fixtures will be eligible to apply.

The grant is pivotal to supporting childcare settings by funding essential capital works and enhance/replace worn or broken items to enable them to significantly improve their premises to promote good quality provision both for the safety and development of children.

**Before making an application**

* Please ensure that you are completing the correct application for your sector area.
* Be prepared to commit to offer childcare for a minimum of 5 years from the date on which the final grant payment is made and acknowledge that if it stops providing childcare places, then the setting is required to repay all or part of the grant funding paid.
* You have read the guidance on ‘what can and what can’t be applied for’ specific for your setting type before you make an application.
* You have collected all evidence which is stated under ‘Items requested and purpose’ – **your application will be declined if you do not include all information requested.**
* Your application is realistic and relevant, and you have provided as much information as possible.
* If you have not observed the grant terms and conditions in the previous financial year, for e.g. underspend not declared, goods or construction work not in place/completed before the end of the financial year, your application may not be considered.
* The childcare setting is either registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) or working with CIW in order to become registered.
* The childcare setting is based in the Vale of Glamorgan.

**Submitting your application**

* Applications can be submitted up to **12 noon** **the day before** any panel meeting.
* You may submit more than one application throughout the financial year. However, all works completed / items must be completed before additional applications will be considered.
* Applications can be made at any point from the week commencing **12 May 2025** until **Thursday 12 February 2026**.
* Funding cannot be paid retrospectively for works already carried out or items already purchased
* This grant is **not for cosmetic work** to a setting or an individual’s home, it is for essential capital works and/or replacement capital items.
* Items must be new and not second-hand.

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| **Completed applications to be returned to:** [valechildcare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:valechildcare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)  ***NB: We will only be able to review applications sent to this email address*** |

**Panel Decisions**

* Applications will be considered by a panel on the following dates.

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| **Friday 06 June 2025** | **Friday 07 November 2025 - Application deadline for capital works** |
| **Friday 04 July 2025** | **Friday 16 January 2026 - Application for capital items only** |
| **Friday 12 September 2025** | **Friday 13 February 2026 - Application for capital items only (On agreement of application any items will need to be purchased first with payment made upon proof of receipts)** |

* An officer from the Local Authority will arrange a pre-visit to your settings regarding larger projects/ equipment.
* Spot inspections will be arranged with childcare settings during the 5-year period regarding works completed / items purchased
* The panel aims to assess and provide a prompt response to the applicant within 2 weeks of the panel meeting.

**All funding must be spent by Friday 27March 2026, there is no provision to carry this funding over into the next financial year.**

**Childminder guidance**

As a childminder working on domestic premises, you will clearly demonstrate the nature of what is being requested and why, and how this benefits the childminding setting and children in your care.

Further to additional guidance received for 2025/26, the small grant may be used to contribute to areas *used for childminding*. i.e. general refurbishment, including painting, replacing carpets and replacing and repairing existing toilets. Please note: each case will be assessed according to the need, circumstances and environment that the childminding is being delivered.

**What can be funded - Guidance and criteria**

The maximum amount available to **any-one setting** in **any given financial year** is detailed below and will be proportionate to the number of days open and the numbers of children within the setting.

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| **Childminders registered up to 10 places** | **Up to £7,500** |

Funding and proportional costs can be offered for various capital works that may be needed such as:

* General refurbishment, including painting, replacing carpets, etc
* Equipment/ furniture to enhance the setting as advised by colleagues within Early Years and Childcare
* Improving the outdoor play facilities of a setting, such as replacing the outdoor play surface or providing a canopy.
* Replacing / repairing general fixtures and fittings such as toilets (Please note this grant can’t be used to setup new toilet area)
* Improvements to outdoor area in line with ‘recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards’ by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) – please attach your latest inspection report
* Replacing worn equipment / furniture / storage which could potentially pose a health and safety risk. For example, a rusted outdoor climbing frame, broken or badly worn play furniture, which could cause splinters.
* IT equipment for administration of children within your care provided it can be clearly shown that there is a need in order to deliver Childcare Offer, Flying Start or Early Education places. This could include laptops, printers, etc. **This would not include IT equipment for use by children**
* A contribution to solar panels may be supported under the small grants funding where a childcare setting/ childminder can clearly demonstrate the total cost benefit/ return on investment
* Expenditure on capital equipment items to allow the setting to be more accessible/inclusive for children with additional needs or disabilities.

**What can’t be funded**

The grant funding is for capital purchases only, essentially something that has a resale value and does not improve the value of the property. It cannot be used to fund:

* The purchase of consumables, such as paper, cleaning materials, nappies, etc.
* PPE equipment or purchase of clothing
* Staff costs such as wages, training, travel and subsistence.
* Utility bills such as gas, electric, rates.
* Mac book, I pad/ Kindle fire/ other tablets
* Daily used toys/ puzzles/ books for example: dolls, Lego, construction, small toys
* Play Tables / Art Easels/ Chalkboards.
* MP3 player and speakers/ camera
* The provision of Wi-Fi.
* Insurance costs e.g., building insurance, employer’s liability insurance, etc.
* The purchase of vehicles or vehicle leasing, running costs such as insurance, fuel, servicing, etc.

**This list is not exhaustive – please check if you are unsure if an item is eligible.**

**Maximum allowance per items**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Max amount** | **Minimum quotes required** | **Comments-75% Initially paid for all capital works and purchases** |
| **Building works** | Up to 100% of total cost | 2 | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid on completion.  Please ensure quotes are from a reputable company on letter headed paper with a clear breakdown of costs. |
| **Laptop only (no additional packages)** | £500 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Not eligible if previously received a grant for a laptop.  Purchase for administration work only. Not for use with children |
| **Printer** | £150 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Purchase for administration work only. Not for use with children |
| **Outdoor equipment e.g. climbing frame,** | £700 | No | 75% paid initially and final balance paid when assembled.  Must be new purchases |
| **Canopy/ Shelter** | £3,000 | 2 | 75% paid initially and final balance paid when assembled  Must be new purchase |
| **Outdoor storage/shed** | £700 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Must be new purchases |
| **Children’s Outdoor table and chairs set**  **Water/ Sand Tray**  **Mud Kitchen** | Up to £250  Up to £300  Up to £350 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Must be new purchases.  Purchase must be specific for child use and not towards larger patio equipment |
| **Indoor storage**  **e.g. filing cabinets, storage units** | Up to £300 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Must be new purchases |
| **Car seat (each)** | Up to £200 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Must be new purchases |
| **Pushchairs**  **Single**  **Double**  **Outdoor large stroller/wagon (kiddie bus)** | Up to £200  Up to £300  Up to £500 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Must be new purchases |
| **Highchairs** | Up to £100 | No | 75% Initially paid and final balance paid when purchased.  Must be new purchases |
| **Solar panels** | A contribution will be determined by the panel and assessed according to the need, circumstances & environment. | 2 |  |

**Frequently asked questions (FAQ’s)**

**Q. Can I purchase an item that is more expensive and make up the difference myself?**

Yes. There may be occasions where you may wish to purchase an item that is more expensive than the maximum allocation. This is acceptable by the panel. However, it will not be acceptable to purchase a more expensive item and not purchase other agreed items to offset the costs.

**Q. I’m a new childminder; can the funding be used for set-up costs?**

Yes, the grant can be used to support initial set-up costs

**Q. Can funding be used to replace indoor / outdoor flooring?**

Yes, if applicants have given sufficient information within their application. We would expect the provider to demonstrate they have looked into, and risk assessed different types of flooring to ensure the one requested is durable / suitable for the purpose.

**Q. Can funding be used for general refurbishment i.e. painting communal areas?**

Yes. However, as childminders work on domestic premises, you will need to demonstrate why you are requesting this for the benefit of your childminding setting, a contribution would be considered by the panel for redecoration of communal areas i.e. painting, replace carpets if deemed appropriate. Please note: this does not include painting the outside of houses.

**Q: As a childminder can I apply for a grant more than once?**

Yes, you may submit more than one application throughout the financial year. However, all works completed / items must be completed before additional applications will be considered and the maximum allowance for the financial year would be £7,500

**For any queries on any of the above, please contact us on:**

**Tel: 01446 709269**

**Or**

[**valechildcare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**](mailto:valechildcare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)