

Application Instructions and Form link – The Best Start in Life Grant 2

Overview and Funding Criteria

Medway Council has been allocated funding for the Best Start in Life Programme, and this is one of 2 small grants available to improve the school readiness of children.

Grant 2 supports community-based parent and child groups to promote positive parenting skills through play, shared experiences, and learning. Parenting courses and support can sometimes be viewed as punitive; this grant aims to change that perception by embedding learning into trusted, welcoming community settings.

The fund provides training and resources to help parents of children aged 3–4 build skills that support their child’s development and home learning.

The funding is available through the Social Impact Gateway, and applicants can apply for up to £5,000 (this can be a total amount across the two available grants).

All grants will be assessed by a panel to determine successful applicants

You may apply for this grant if your organisation:

- Operates in the Medway area
- Deliver, or plan to deliver, parent and child groups for children aged 3–4 focused on play, interaction, and shared learning
- Are an established community group or can demonstrate an identified local need for a new group.

To meet the funding criteria, any applications must ensure that proposed projects/initiatives meet the following:

- 75% of the grant must be used for group delivery to start, continue, or refocus parent and child groups
- 25% of the grant must be used for training and resources that support Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) development goals, these are:
 - Self-regulation
 - Managing self
 - Building relationships
 - Listening, attention, and understanding
 - Speaking
 - Gross motor skills
 - Fine Motor Skills

Successful applicants should be aware that:

- Mandatory meetings for all successful grantees will include information and guidance on completing reporting templates and networking support
- A reporting template will be provided to ensure the desires for the grant have been met. More information on this will be provided by MVA.

Application process

To apply click the link below to fill out the application form:

[Grant 2 - Best Start in Life Funding Application \(Medway\) – Fill in form](#)

The closing date for applications has been extended to Friday **17th April 2026**.

If you're not already signed as a SIG Affiliate, then you can do this by visiting: [Medway Voluntary Action | MVA's New Social Impact Gateway Programme](#)

We also offer an appeals process where required; plus provide signposting to alternative funding and MVA's 1:1 and Funding Club support for unsuccessful applicants.

For any further queries of this grant and specification, please contact **Kate@mva.org.uk**