

## “How much will it cost? Where can we source the funds?”

Finding and applying for funding can be pretty overwhelming. Here are some top tips and considerations to help you secure your playground finances in 2026



### **Planning is KEY**

Start with clear aims - what you want to achieve and who will benefit. Give yourself plenty of time as grant applications aren't approved overnight.

### **Get everyone involved**

Build a fundraising team and include the children too! Their enthusiasm can be infectious, and getting them engaged adds momentum.

### **Write a to-do list and assign responsibilities**

Clear roles keep the project on track and make progress easier to manage. School and community events are a fun way to raise money, and every bit counts.

### **Make your project stand out!**

Highlight what sets it apart from other grant applications. Help make their decision to choose you as a beneficiary as easy as possible.

### **Demonstrate need**

Describe your current problem and explain how your proposal will solve it. Could it benefit the wider community? Back it up with evidence, and don't be afraid to show genuine passion.

### **Set a timeline for when you'd like the playground completed**

This helps funders understand when the money is needed.



## Work out your budget

Start by clarifying the full cost of the project. How much funding have you already secured, and how much are you applying for? Break this down into a clear list of items and prices so funders can see exactly where their money will be spent.

Ask your outdoor play provider for a detailed quote. Itemised costs and a 3D design proposal make it far easier for funders to visualise the project and understand how their funding delivers a practical solution.

Creative Play provides detailed quotations and 3D designs at no cost, supporting stronger, more credible funding applications.

## Be selective with funders

Check eligibility criteria before applying to make sure your project fits their remit. Don't waste their time, and more importantly, your own!

## Do your research

Look into local opportunities, current trends, and what each funder expects from applicants.

## Plan for the future

Let funders know how the playground will be maintained long-term once funding ends. Reassure them that it will be money well spent.

## And finally - stay positive

There are times when funding applications can seem overwhelming and emotionally draining. But stay confident. An enthusiastic tone can make all the difference!

## Key points of consideration when completing a funding application

1

Check that you meet all the **eligibility criteria** set by the funding provider **before applying**. You can explore our [Funding Application Library](#) to research some of the main funding opportunities available.

2

Once you've chosen a funding opportunity, be sure to **read all the guidelines carefully** so you're clear on the requirements **before you begin the application**.

3

**Remember the Three P's:**

**Project | Plan | Permission**

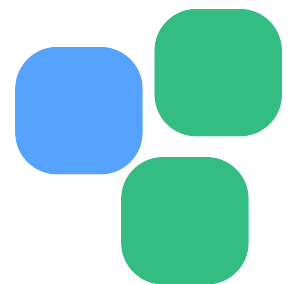
See below for more information

## PROJECT

Be clear about the project you want to fund. The more detail you provide, the stronger your application will be.

**You should also consider:**

1. What funds do you already have in place?
2. How much are you wanting to raise?
3. Why do you want to undergo this project in the first place?



## PLAN

Next, start gathering the information you'll need for your application. Our **Starting Your Application** guide is here to support you when it's time to complete the form

## PERMISSION

Check whether planning permission is required **before applying for funding**. Your local council can advise you on this and guide you through the process if needed.