

Funding Pack 2026



Education
Local Authorities
Community Groups

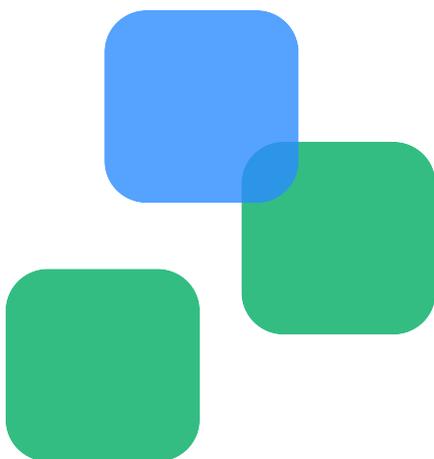
The Outdoor Play
Experts



Content



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“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. Community events are a fun way to raise money, and every bit counts.

Make your project stand out!

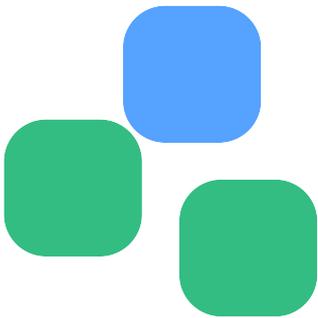
Highlight what sets it apart from other grant applications. Help make their decision to choose you as a beneficiary as easy as possible.

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

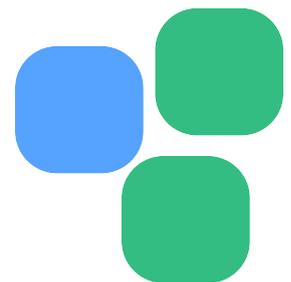
See below for more information

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 planning permission requirements **before applying for funding**.

C

Cake Sales – These always go down well. Who doesn't love a treat? And the children love getting involved.

Coffee Morning – Why not host a Coffee & Tea morning? Maybe sell some left over cakes from the Cake Sale (if there are any!)

Car Wash – Kids love washing cars, it's a fun activity people love supporting.

R

Raffle – Ask local businesses for prize donations. You'll be surprised how quickly a tempting prize pool comes together.

Running – Get kids, staff, or even parents to do a sponsored run – bonus points for fancy dress!

E

Egg and Spoon Race - Charge a small fee to take part in the race for a chance to win a prize.

A

After Hours Film Night – Get the projector out and let the public enjoy a film, with a small charge for the movie and extra for some popcorn and drink.

Art Day – Kids enjoy creating art, so why not make a day of producing pieces for parents to purchase?

T

Toy Sale – A toy sale is a great way to make money from old toys children are bored with.

Talent Show – Let kids show off their talent - while making money!

I

Indoor Games – An indoor games session with the children, charging a small fee to play.

Ice Cream and Smoothie Making – Want a fun activity to take part in over the summer? Make and sell cooling treats!

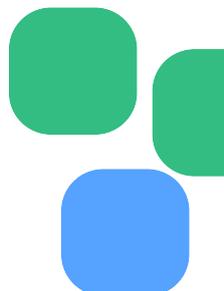
V

Volunteering – This is probably one of the most successful ways of funding! Volunteer to do something within the local community and ask for donations - if you tell them what it is for, the results can often be surprising.

Valentines Dinner and Dance – Great chance for the little ones (and some grown ups!) to team up with a partner for a boogie.

E

Eco Day – These are always popular with the children. By encouraging them to build a tent or a den, they are also partaking in some team building exercises.



P

Packing Bags – Ask your local supermarket if the children can spend the day packing customers' bags. Be sure to take along a box for donations.
Pyjama Day – Come to school / work in your pyjamas! For a small fee children and adults alike can experience their most comfortable day of the year.

L

Lunch – But unlike any other! Invite a local chef to volunteer their skills to provide a special lunchtime meal. Just be sure the charge covers the cost of the supplies!
Limbo Competition – Pay an entry fee to participate in the competition which tests just how low you can go!

A

Assault Course – Charge children and adults a small fee to see if they can overcome a challenging series of obstacles.

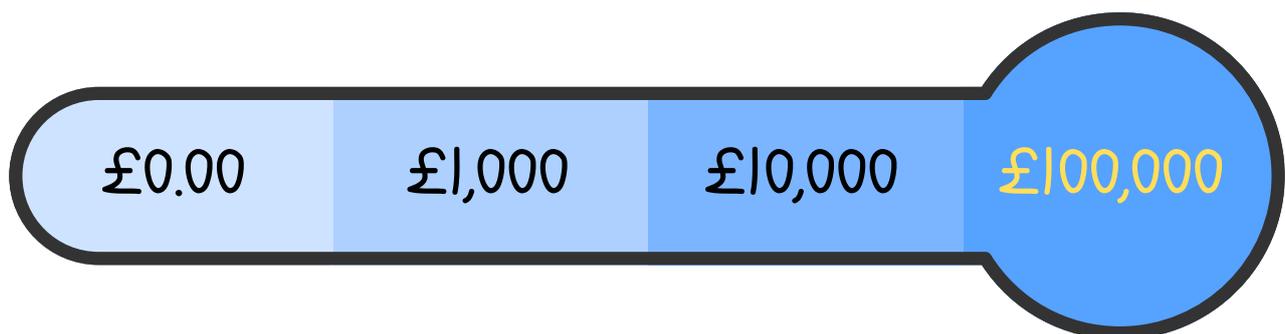
Y

Your Own Clothes Day – Let children and adults express themselves by wearing whatever they like! For a small fee, of course.
Yoga - Recruit the talents of a local yoga instructor to pop in for an hour and conduct a session with children and adults.

This guide is just a glimpse of the many ways you can kickstart your playground funding journey.

Whether you're applying for a grant or launching your own fundraising efforts, follow the steps in this pack and you'll be well on your way.

Why not add a bit of fun and motivation with a fundraising thermometer? Colour it in as you reach each milestone and display it somewhere visible to get everyone involved. Every penny makes a difference!



Give your application a strong starting point with this selection of key funding sources.



School Improvement Offer



Various



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trust-and-school-improvement-offer>



Government support for schools with an overall effectiveness grade below 'good'.



Twinkl Extracurricular Activities Fund



£500



<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/giveaway/communitycollectionjan>



Offers schools and educational organisations across the UK the opportunity to win a £500 cash prize to support extracurricular activities.



Wooden Spoon Grant



£2,000+



<https://woodenspoon.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>



Provide funds for projects with a lifespan beyond 5 years, preferably with a rugby element to it and costing over £2,000.



Woodward Charitable Trust



£3,000



<https://woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/>



Grants funds to organisations that work directly with children under 12 years old.



YAPP Charitable Trust



£3,000



<https://yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/>



They fund work that focuses on children and young people, education and learning (with particular interest in those who are educationally disadvantaged, whether adults or children).



Blue Spark Foundation



Various



<https://www.bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/>



Supporting projects which initiated or undertaken by schools, colleges, cultural organisations such as drama and music clubs, sports organisations and community clubs.



Suez Community Fund



£50,000



<https://www.suez.co.uk/en-gb/our-offering/communities-and-individuals/giving-something-back/suez-communities-fund>



The SUEZ Communities Fund awards capital funding for single-site community or environmental improvements, covering equipment, materials and contractors, via UK landfill community funds.



Ninevah Charitable Trust



£5,000



<https://ninevehtrust.org.uk/>



Grants towards projects by schools and PTA for better understanding the environment.



Metropolitan Public Gardens Association



Various



<https://www.mpga.org.uk/grants.php>



Gardening charity in London offering grants to schools and community projects.



Children Today Trust



£1,000



<https://www.childrentoday.org.uk/apply-now/>



Can contribute up to £1,000 towards sensory play equipment.



The Hargreaves Foundation



**£200,000
Per
Annum**



<https://www.thehargreavesfoundation.org/application-process/>



The Foundation can fund clearly defined projects, initiatives or the purchase of specific items that support those under 18 living with a mental health condition or disability. They put a strong emphasis on sport related projects.



Baily Thomas Charitable Fund



£9,000



<https://www.bailythomas.org.uk/>



General grants for people with learning disabilities - Application eligibility requires clearly stating the approximate proportion or number of users who have learning disabilities.



Primary School Funding



Various



<https://funding-grants.co.uk/education-grants/primary-school>



Considered 'Compare The Market' for funding opportunities, grant information is updated in real time so the fund list is full of up to date information. Excellent for playgrounds, pathways, outdoor classrooms, MUGAs and other outdoor sports facilities.



PTA+



Various



<https://www.pta.co.uk/fundraising/funding-sources/>



Information and support for sourcing funding for developing your next project.



School Capital Funding



Various



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding>



Funding allocated by The Department for Education to improve school buildings and grounds.

ALL **The National Lottery Community Fund**  **Various**

 www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes

 Funding programmes come and go often in the National Lottery Community Fund, so it is worth regularly checking out. Currently the focus is on out of school hours learning.

ALL **FCC Communities Foundation**  **£100,000**

 <https://www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/>

 Funding projects sited within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility.

ALL **ASDA Foundation**  **£20,000**

 <https://asdafoundation.org/>

 Each year, the Asda Foundation receives a donation from Asda Stores and use it to provide grant funding to grassroots groups at the heart of communities throughout the UK.

ALL **Veolia Environmental Trust**  **£75,000**

 www.veoliatrust.org/funding

 Grant Scheme supporting projects aiming to improve outdoor community spaces. Projects should encourage wellbeing, be inclusive and accessible, promote sustainability.

ALL **Enovert Community Trust**  **£50,000**

 www.enovert.co.uk/enovert-community-trust/funding

 Projects must be located within 10 miles of a landfill site or waste management facility operated by Enovert Management Limited in Billingham, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Colchester, Gloucester, Kingswinford, Lydney, Middlesbrough, Southend-On-Sea, Walsall, or Weston-super-Mare.

ALL **Tesco Stronger Starts**  **£1,500**

 www.tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/

 Tesco Stronger Starts provides grants to help children and young people access healthy food and enriching activities. The programme supports their physical and mental wellbeing, helping give them a stronger start in life.

ALL **HS2 Community Fund**  **£250,000**

 www.hs2funds.org.uk/home/community-environment-fund

 Welcome applications for projects that will enhance the quality of life and the environment of communities disrupted by the construction of HS2.

ALL **BIFFA Award**  **£75,000**

 www.biffa-award.org/recreation

 Biffa Award is one of the most respected Landfill Communities Fund schemes, and has awarded more than £100 million to worthwhile projects since 1997.

ALL **Children In Need**  **£40,000**

 <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/>

 They fund a balance of grants across the UK that address the greatest needs of vulnerable children and young people.



Co-op Community Fund



**£115 Million
So Far**



<https://causes.coop.co.uk/>



One school recently received over £3,600 towards a sensory room for deaf and visually impaired pupils. Discover what they can do for you!



Easy Fundraising



**£60 Million
So Far**



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/register-your-good-cause/>



Simple fundraising linked to your favourite retailers! Case studies on the website give examples of how it works.



Football Foundation



**£1.1 Billion
So Far**



<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/looking-for-funding>



Find funding for outdoor sports items such as fencing with the UK largest sports charity.



Ford Britain Trust



£250



<https://www.ford.co.uk/experience-ford/news/ford-britain-trust>



Providing small grants of up to £250, they welcome applications from registered charities, schools, PTAs and not-for-profit organisations.



Fund Ed



Various



<https://funded.org.uk/grants/>



Get help generating additional income streams from education fundraising experts - many grants can be found on their website.



GoFundMe



**£35 Million
A Week**



<https://www.gofundme.com/en-gb/c/start>



The famous crowdfunding platform useful for beginners and seasoned pros alike! Start raising money free of charge.

 **Groundwork**  **£50,000**

 <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

 They manage a number of grant schemes on the behalf of businesses, public sector and third sector partners to help you make your project a reality.

 **JustGiving**  **Various**

 <https://www.justgiving.com/>

 Setting up an account is free, and events are easy to share via social media.

 **Barker-Mill Foundation**  **£5,000**

 <https://barkermillfoundation.com/>

 Previously known as the Peter Barker-Mill Memorial Charity, the Foundation makes donations to local charities, schools, organisations and individuals needing support, primarily in south west Hampshire.

ALL **Sport England** **£** **£15,000**

 <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/movement-fund/more-about-movement-fund>

 Sport England's main focus is on supporting projects that match their goal of getting more people active, reducing the number of inactive people and tackling long-standing inequalities.

ALL **Sport Scotland** **£** **£2 Million Per Annum**

 www.sportscotland.org.uk/funding/sport-facilities-fund

 Prioritisation is given to projects that deliver the greatest impact on equality, diversity and inclusion objectives in Scotland.

ALL **Sport Wales** **£** **£50,000**

 www.sport.wales/grants-and-funding/beactivewalesfund

 A national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and physical activity in Wales.



Starting Your Application



Start by providing key details about your organisation - some applications may require this information in depth. The more data you can gather the stronger your application will be.

List it all below for future use with every application you make.

- Name and Address of your Organisation
- Type of Organisation
- Website
- Banking Details
- Insurances
- Recent Accounts

1. Name the project

2. Assign a main contact for the application

Who will take lead responsibility, plus a 'second in command'



Starting Your Application

3. Clearly outline the project you're seeking funding for, including timescales you're aiming to achieve

ie. sensory garden, including play equipment & safety surfacing.

To be completed for season (3 months)

A large light blue rectangular area with horizontal white lines, serving as a writing space for the application details.



How Creative Play Can Help

How Creative Play Can Help With Applications

Consultation

A free comprehensive consultation service from Creative Play includes 3D designs and expert advice on the best play equipment and layout for your situation. Our consultants are able to:

- Assess your outdoor play area
- Help you create a personalised play area around a framework that you can build on and expand in the future
- Help you to create any style of playground – from the most basic to the most extravagant!
- Discuss with you ideas on how to provide a variety of play experiences within your playground design
- Make certain that the equipment we select for children is appropriate for their age and size
- Provide specialist advice on safety and accessibility, including helping you to meet any local regulations
- Offer expert knowledge on all outdoor play equipment options
- Provide a thorough consultation and Q&A session with stakeholders if required
- Help you take the first step when designing the perfect playground

Quotation

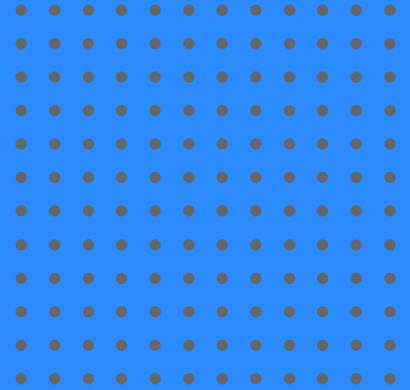
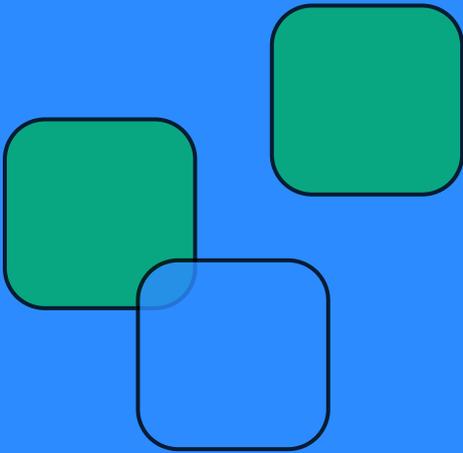
We provide [detailed quotations](#) listing all items and work, with an exact cost, essential for funding applications.

Resources

We bring a wealth of resources that can help you explain playground choices to prospective funders, such as [design guides](#), [inclusivity information](#), [sustainability guides](#), and a variety of [case studies](#) which reinforce decisions

Working With Us

Detailed information about [processes](#) and [guarantees](#) are readily available on our [website](#) to address all concerns and questions funders might have.



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