

**Grants awarded under the Armed Forces Families Fund: Early Years programme 2023/24 – February 2024**

**21 grants totalling £870,039**

Organisation	Project Title	Grant Amount (£)	Project Description
<b>England</b>			
Beaumont Community Primary school	Beaumont Early Years Wellbeing Hub	£11,000	The project aims to provide Service children with access to a secure environment staffed with trained professionals who will support their personal, social and emotional development, enabling them to thrive.
Cornwall Council (Early Years Service)	Armed Forces Children in Cornwall	£80,000	The project will deliver a targeted training and support programme for all Early Years providers with children aged 0-5 years from Armed Forces families. The focus will be on personal, social and emotional development linked to specific needs as identified through local and national research.
Catterick Garrison Preschool Group	Picture SMILES and GIGGLES	£43,913	The project aims to develop a classroom that will support babies aged 9 months to 2 years old, as well as children with special educational needs. The classroom will enable a smaller, more focused environment in prime areas of development through sensory-based activities tailored to their needs.
Aldershot Garrison Pre-school settings	360* early years development project	£33,000	The project aims to build an inclusive 360-degree educational programme spanning from infancy to five years old, addressing Early Years support and development for families. This will consist of parenting courses, interactive outdoor play areas, SEN sensory rooms, and specialised training to facilitate a diverse and inclusive nursery population.
Staffordshire County Council	How society shapes children's lives	£ 20,000	This project will deliver learning and development opportunities for Early Years practitioners working with young children from Armed

			Forces Families through a conference that will explore child development themes that are relevant for this community and will explore opportunities to help children flourish.
Mulberry Pre-School	Enabling children's wellbeing	£29,000	Mulberry Pre-School intends to remove and replace the safety surface in the outdoors area in order to give children access to play opportunities.
The Haig Day Nursery	Owls Wanderers	£60,000	The aim of the project is to transform the preschool garden, which is currently tarmac and uneven, into a safer and more enriching outdoor space for children. The project will enhance the space, and improve children's learning and development in the outdoor environment.
Peter Pan Pre-School	Peter Pan Pre-School Sustainability Project	£ 35,000	The project will increase the provision of support expanding the preschool's capacity to accommodate more places for 2–4-year-old Service children; in an area where there is high demand for childcare from Armed Forces Families.
Sandhurst Station Nursery	A place for everyone	£ 24,719	This project seeks to improve accessibility to the setting by securing Special Educational Needs training for existing staff, increasing the working hours of those trained so that there is a SEN-trained member of staff covering the full working day, every day, and extending opening hours.
RAFA Kidz Boulmer	RAFA Kidz Boulmer	£ 33,124	RAFA Kidz Boulmer nursery will enhance its Early Years setting by creating an inspiring outdoor learning environment that will enable year-round play and increase learning opportunities to promote, encourage, and support the healthy development of young children from Armed Forces families.
RAFA Kidz Brize Norton	RAFA Kidz Brize Norton	£ 79,256	RAFA Kidz Brize Norton nursery will enhance its Early Years setting by creating new areas within the garden to enable year-round play and provide Forest School training to staff to encourage and support the healthy development of young children from Armed Forces families to meet their specific needs.

Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre	Wacc outside provision project	£ 20,000	The project will modernise and update the children's outdoor provision area with new places to explore and experience new learning opportunities. This will build confidence and support all areas of the children's learning whilst challenging their skills.
RAFA Kidz Leeming	RAFA Kidz Leeming	£ 36,322	The project will enhance its outdoor learning environment via new natural resources and equipment, creation of new zones, Forest School training for staff and installation of gazebos to promote year-round play. This will encourage and support the healthy development of Service children.
RAFA Kidz Walter's Ash	RAFA Kidz Walter's Ash	£59,699	The project will enhance its outdoor learning environment by creating new areas, purchasing new resources and undertaking training to deliver the seven areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation stage which will promote, encourage and support the healthy development of young children from Armed Forces families.
Beehive Pre-school Playgroup	Sensory Room for Emotional Regulation	£19,350	The project will create a dedicated sensory room to help Service children regulate their emotions with a calming atmosphere and specialised resources to help comfort them, especially when parents are deployed. A trained member of staff in emotional literacy will work with the children during one-to-one sessions.
Action for Children	Meaningful Mindfulness	£12,000	The project aims to prioritise children's emotional wellbeing by providing an environment where they feel safe and secure. By creating designated areas for reflection and emotional regulation, the children will receive the best possible learning experiences.
RAFA Kidz Worthy Down	RAFA Kidz Worthy Down	£72,208	The project will enhance Early Years provision and opportunities to learn outside of the classroom by establishing a Forest School and purchasing new equipment to enhance sensory learning, increase understanding of nature and support the learning and development of young children from Armed Forces families.
RAFA Kidz High Wycombe	RAFA Kidz High Wycombe	£79,528	The project will enhance outdoor learning environment via new, high-quality, and robust outdoor resources and staff training in Forest

			School methods to engage children's senses, encourage creativity and inspire imagination to support and sustain their healthy development.
Action for Children	Wyton forest adventures	£22,000	The project aims to upgrade the outdoor area creating a forest school experience and enhancing outdoor learning for all children. This will entail purchasing supplies and equipment to ensure safety and accessibility for everyone with staff in place to facilitate the activities.
<b>Scotland</b>			
Argyll & Bute Council	Emotional Literacy Early Years Training	£79,920	This training and mentoring programme aims to assist Early Years staff, including childminders, who work with families in the Forces, particularly those based at HM Naval Base Clyde. The project will focus on developing practical ideas and resources to demonstrate how creativity and the arts can aid in managing the emotional challenges faced by babies and very young children (0-5 years old) during Naval deployment.
Clyde Nursery	Nurture room/additional space.	£20,000	The nurture room will provide a warm safe space for children within the nursery who may require time away from a busy room. This all-year accessible space will provide sensory experiences for children to continue to develop their emotional, social, and physical development.
	Total	<b>£870,039</b>	