

Funding Periods

	From	To
Autumn 2020	1 st September 2020	31 st December 2020
Spring 2021	1 st January 2021	14 th April 2021
Summer 2021	15 th April 2021	31 st August 2021

Please be aware that a child can claim a maximum of 570 hours of Free Early Education (universal entitlement) in a funding year and, if eligible, a further 570 hours of free childcare (extended entitlement). A child's funding year starts the term after their 3rd birthday in line with the table below:

Child First Becomes Eligible for Funding	Children Born in Period	Terms Included in the Funding Year
September (Autumn Term)	1 st April to 31 st August	Autumn, Spring & Summer
January (Spring Term)	1 st September to 31 st December	Spring, Summer & Autumn
April (Summer Term)	1 st January to 31 st March	Summer, Autumn & Spring

Funded Weeks

In line with the Kent Provider Agreement, Providers can now offer a non-stretched or stretched pattern or both. However, where providers are unable to open for the 38 weeks and this has been agreed with KCC, the provider must ensure that parents are made aware prior to taking up their place that they will not be able to access their full free entitlement with them.

Funding over 38 weeks - Non-Stretched

up to 15 hours per week

Autumn 2020	14 weeks	210 hours
Spring 2021	11 weeks	165 hours
Summer 2021	13 weeks	195 hours

Funding over 48 weeks - Stretched

up to 12 hours per week

Autumn 2020	16 weeks	192 hours
Spring 2021	14 weeks	168 hours
Summer 2021	18 weeks	216 hours

Settings offering Stretched funding

In the case of a parent taking up the 'stretched' offer, they must be made aware that they may exceed their free early education hours and be given the option of either (a) removing their child from the setting or (b) paying for the additional hours. Under no circumstances can you insist that the parent pays; they must have the option to remove their child if this best suits their circumstances. The terms around these extra hours must be agreed between yourself and the parent at the time they sign the Parental Declaration. Please be aware that the choice of whether to stretch the funding is up to each Provider and is not obligatory.

Should you wish to stretch funding between 38 or 48 weeks or 48 weeks plus please claim the funding over 38 or 48 weeks per year via Synergy and then stretch the funding yourselves with the parent. There is a calculator available on KELSI to convert non-stretched hours to stretched. You will also be required to track these children on the stretched tracker for audit purposes which is also available to download from KELSI. These tools are only required to be used if you are stretching funding outside of the 38 or 48 week pattern.

There are 2 sample calendars on KELSI to assist you with working out your term dates. When stretching funding for a child for 48 weeks you **must** remember to tick that the child is stretched at headcount in Synergy and check the weeks you are claiming for are correct.

Providers should be aware that the universal and extended funding will be capped at 570 hours each a year (the maximum number of hours the Department for Education fund Local Authorities) so Management Information will deduct any overclaimed hours in the final term of the child's funding year.

Estimate Data Collection period for 3 and 4 Year Old Funding

Autumn 2020: Friday 26th June – Tuesday 7th July 2020
 Spring 2021: Friday 13th November – Tuesday 24th November 2020
 Summer 2021: Friday 5th March – Tuesday 16th March 2021

Interim payments will be paid at 50% of the termly hours submitted

Headcount Weeks for 3 and 4 Year Old Funding

Autumn 2020: Monday 14th September – Friday 18th September 2020
 Spring 2021: Monday 18th January – Friday 22nd January 2021
 Summer 2021: Monday 26th April – Friday 30th April 2021

Payment Dates for 3 and 4 Year Old Funding

Autumn 2020: Interim: W/C Monday 7th September 2020
 Balancing: W/C Monday 2nd November 2020
 Spring 2021: Interim: W/C Monday 4th January 2021
 Balancing: W/C Monday 22nd February 2021
 Summer 2021: Interim: W/C Monday 19th April 2021
 Balancing: W/C Monday 7th June 2021

Term	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds	Whole DOB Range
Autumn 20	01/09/2016 to 31/08/2017	01/09/2015 to 31/08/2016	01/09/2015 to 31/08/2017
Spring 21	01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017	01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	01/01/2016 to 31/12/2017
Summer 21	01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018	01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	01/04/2016 to 31/03/2018
Autumn 22	01/09/2017 to 31/08/2018	01/09/2016 to 31/08/2017	01/09/2016 to 31/08/2018

Compliance Visits

KCC, its agents or any person authorized by KCC, will carry out annual sample checks and/or audits on all registered childcare providers to ensure compliance with the requirements of Free Early Education funding. KCC, its agents or any person authorized by KCC, will also carry out checks as a result of a complaint or concern.