

# Early Years Providers Funding Calendar and Payment Schedule

## Free Entitlements Funding Periods Sept 2026 – Aug 2027



*This document details the funding periods and payment dates for early years providers in Kent offering: Early Learning for 2 Year Olds, 3&4 Universal Funding, the Working Parent Entitlement, Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) for children aged 9 months – 4 years and is to be used in accordance with the terms of the Kent Provider Agreement.*

### Funding Periods

	From	To
Autumn 2026	1 September 2026	31 December 2026
Spring 2027	1 January 2027	12 April 2027
Summer 2027	13 April 2027	31 August 2027

### Maximum Funded Hours

A child can claim the maximum number of funded hours per entitlement as detailed below:

Age Range	Free Entitlements	Yearly Hours	Maximum Entitlement per Age Range
9 Months +	Working Parent Entitlement	1140	A maximum of <b>1140</b> for eligible 9 months +
2 Year Olds	Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (formally FF2)	570	A maximum of <b>570</b> for eligible 2 year olds*
2 Year Olds	Working Parent Entitlement	1140	A maximum of <b>1140</b> for eligible 2 year olds*
3&4 Year Olds	Universal Entitlement	570	A maximum of <b>1140</b> for eligible 3&4 year olds
3&4 Year Olds	Working Parent Entitlement	570	

\* If eligible for both the Early Learning for 2 Year Olds and the Working Parent Entitlement, the funding will be split between the entitlements to a maximum of 1140 hours.

### Date of Birth Ranges 2026/27

Term	9 Months +	2 Year Olds	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds	Whole 3&4 DOB Range
Autumn 2026	01/09/2024 to 30/11/2025	01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024	01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023	01/09/2021 to 31/08/2022	01/09/2021 to 31/08/2023
Spring 2027	01/01/2025 to 31/03/2026	01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022	01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023
Summer 2027	01/04/2025 to 30/06/2026	01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025	01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024	01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	01/04/2022 to 31/03/2024
Autumn 2027	01/09/2025 to 30/11/2026	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024	01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023	01/09/2022 to 31/08/2024

For further information on which term a child's funded year starts, please refer to the eligibility section in the Kent Provider Agreement, which can be found on the Kelsi website - [Free Entitlements- Kelsi](#)

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## Funding Rates

The funding base rates for providers in 2026/27 are as follows:

3 & 4 Year Olds*	£5.63
2 Year Olds	£8.23
9 Months +	£11.18
EYPP	£1.15 per funded hour
DAF	£975 per year

*\*If you qualify for the quality supplement, this will be added to your base rate. Deprivation supplements will be an additional payment made by Kent County Council's (KCC) Finance Team.*

## Funded Weeks

In line with the Kent Provider Agreement, providers can offer a non-stretched or stretched pattern or both but Free Entitlement claims can only be submitted to KCC under a 38 week pattern. If you wish to deliver the Free Entitlements outside the 38 week pattern, please refer to the stretched weeks calculator and stretched to term time converter on KELSI to ensure you claim the correct number of funded hours.

### Funding over 38 weeks – term time

up to 15 hours per week (or up to 30 hours per week if eligible for Working Parent Entitlement)

Autumn 2026 **14 weeks** **210** hours (or **420** hours)

Spring 2027 **11 weeks** **165** hours (or **330** hours)

Summer 2027 **13 weeks** **195** hours (or **390** hours)

## Submitting Funding Claims

All Free Entitlement claims\* must be submitted to Management Information through the Synergy FIS Provider Portal. Claims follow an estimate and child-in-attendance process during the actuals claim period. Each claim should be submitted for the term based on the weekly hours attended during the designated census week. Providers **must** have a signed Parental Declaration Form before submitting any claims. Any children starting after the actuals claim period closes (who have not attended another Kent provision in that funding period) or amendments to incorrect claims can be submitted via the adjustment tab in the provider portal and will be paid in line with the payment windows specified in this document.

*\*Disability Access Fund (DAF) does not follow this process and is not completed within the Synergy FIS Provider Portal. The application can be found on KELSI - [Free Entitlements- Kelsi](#). Payment for eligible children will be made in line with the set payment dates on this document.*

### Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (FF2)

Early Learning for 2 year olds is for the most disadvantaged two year olds in Kent. Claims should be based on KCC confirmed eligible children only. Children can start at any point during a term and claims **can** be submitted to increase funded hours throughout the term.

### 3&4 Year Old Universal Funding and the Working Parent Entitlement for 9 months- 4 years

A claim detailing the number of weekly hours attended should be submitted for those children who are in attendance during the designated claim period. Universal hours and the Working Parent Entitlement hours **cannot** be increased after the claim period closes.

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### Actuals Claim Period:

Autumn 2026:	Tuesday 1 September – Tuesday 6 October 2026
Spring 2027:	Monday 4 January – Tuesday 2 February 2027
Summer 2027:	Tuesday 13 April – Tuesday 25 May 2027

### Designated EY Census Week:

Autumn 2026:	Monday 28 September – Friday 2 October 2026
Spring 2027:	Monday 18 January – Friday 22 January 2027
Summer 2027:	Monday 17 May – Friday 21 May 2027

### EYPP

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is only payable on the first 15 funded hours a week that the child is receiving for the term across all the entitlements. Providers must add the parent details from the Parental Declaration Form onto the child's funding claim in the Synergy provider portal and tick the EYPP consent box, EYPP will then be added to the child's claim for the term if they are eligible. If a child meets the non-economic criteria, then providers can follow the application process on KELSI – [Free Entitlements- Kelsi](#) Further information on how to claim can be found in the 'Free Entitlements Claim Process' document available on KELSI.

### Submission Windows and Payment Dates:

#### Autumn 2026

Submission Type	Claims to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal:	Payment date:
Estimate	26 June - 7 July 2026	28 August 2026 28 September 2026 28 October 2026
Actual Attendance / Headcount	1 September – 6 October 2026	27 November 2026
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	7 October - 18 November 2026	24 December 2026
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	19 November - 23 December 2026	28 January 2027

#### Spring 2027

Submission Type	Claims to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal:	Payment date:
Estimate	13 November - 24 November 2026	24 December 2026 28 January 2027 26 February 2027
Actual Attendance / Headcount	4 January – 2 February 2027	25 March 2027
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	3 February – 3 March 2027	25 March 2027
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	4 March – 1 April 2027	28 April 2027

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### Summer 2027

Submission Type	Claims to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal:	Payment date:
Estimate	5 March – 16 March 2027	28 April 2027 28 May 2027 28 June 2027
Actual Attendance / Headcount	19 April – 25 May 2027	28 July 2027
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	26 May - 23 June 2027	28 July 2027
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	24 June – 28 July 2027	27 August 2027
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	29 July - 25 August 2027	28 September 2027

Any adjustment to headcount claims for 3&4 year old universal funding and for working parent entitlement claims for 9 months- 4 year olds will be liable to an administration charge. Further details on charges can be found on [KELSI - Free Entitlements- Kelsi](#)

### Early Years Census

The Early Years Census is how the local authority receives funding to pay providers for the year, so it is vital that **ALL** providers complete it. Failure to submit a census will result in funding payments being held until it has been received.

The DfE will now be collecting a termly EY Census, which will be in the Synergy FIS Provider Portal. You will be required to submit your census form before you submit any funding claims to Management Information for the term. All children submitted during the terms claim period will be included for census.

### Census submission periods and dates:

Term	EY Census to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal	EY Census Date
Autumn 2026	Tuesday 1 September – Tuesday 6 October 2026	Thursday 1 October 2026
Spring 2027	Monday 4 January – Tuesday 2 February 2027	Thursday 21 January 2027
Summer 2027	Tuesday 13 April – Tuesday 25 May 2027	Thursday 20 May 2027*

\*Provisional date subject to change

### Compliance Visits

KCC, its agents or any person authorised by KCC, will carry out regular audits on all registered childcare providers to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Kent Provider Agreement. KCC, its agents or any person authorised by KCC, will also carry out checks as a result of a complaint or concern.