



**Strategic & Corporate Services
Finance**

Room 3.17
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ
External Tel: 03000 416160
Ask for: Robin Goldsmith
Email: eyfinance@kent.gov.uk
Date: 7 March 2018

Dear Colleague

Early Education Entitlement Funding for 2018-19

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of your settings' Early Years Free Entitlement funding rates for 2018-19 financial year for three and four year olds and also for two year olds.

The funding rates paid to Kent County Council by Central Government for both Free Entitlements for three and four year olds and two years olds has remained at the same level as 2017-18, meaning no uplift for inflation has been provided.

Despite this, I am pleased to inform you that the base rate for three and four year olds is increasing by £0.04 from £3.96 to £4.00 per child per hour from 1 April 2018. This increase has been found from a combination of increased take up of 30 hours alongside KCC moving towards retaining less money to fund central services. The amount of money we are allowed to retain for 2018-19 is reducing to 5% (from 7%), meaning a greater proportion of the money we receive must be given to providers.

The hourly rate for three and four year olds, which has been determined under the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), continues to be made up of a base rate plus, if applicable, any of the following supplementary rates: Quality (qualified leader), Quality (system leadership) and Deprivation.

Quality (Qualified Leader)

For the Quality (qualified leader) supplementary rate, a setting with a nominated leader with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), **and employed on and paid under the Statutory Teachers' Terms and Conditions**, will receive an additional £0.90 per child per hour. Settings with a nominated leader with either full accredited Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) or QTS (but not employed on and paid under the Statutory Teachers' Terms and Conditions), will receive an additional £0.30 per hour.

For those providers in receipt of the QTS supplement (paid under Teachers Terms and Conditions), we have asked you to confirm that you are meeting the required conditions by returning a completed copy of our verification audit (integral to the Kent Provider Agreement).

For settings that employ a Qualified Leader who holds an overseas qualification, they will need to ensure confirmation is received that the qualification is recognised as QTS by the Department for Education (DfE). Details of how you can apply for this confirmation is through the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/qualified-teacher-status-qts>.

To ensure settings are given sufficient time to apply and receive confirmation, we will be awarding those settings who this applies to and have fulfilled all other eligibility criteria the supplement until 31 August 2018 and if the DfE documentation is not received by this time, we will make the necessary changes to your funding rate.

Quality (System Leadership)

The System Leadership Supplement has a fixed overall budget of £250k and supports further improvement in the Early Years and Childcare sector and outcomes for children through the work of Collaborations. Data collection will take place from Collaboration Leaders during May and June, and we are exploring options for confirming allocations before the summer break.

Deprivation

Your setting's deprivation rate has been determined by calculating an average deprivation score based on the addresses of the children that attended your setting during the Autumn 2017 term headcount. If your setting's average score is above the qualifying threshold you will qualify for the supplement, the amount of which depends upon your setting's score relative to the minimum qualifying threshold. For 2018-19 the threshold score has been set at 51, meaning any setting with score greater than this will receive a share of this supplement.

Base Rate

From the Summer Term 2018, your setting will be paid at the hourly rate of £ which is made up of the following components:

Base rate	Supplementary – qualified leader		Supplementary – deprivation	
£	Qualification ¹	£	Score	£

¹QTS-N is for a Qualified Teacher but not paid under the statutory teachers' pay and conditions

Required Action

Please check your hourly rate carefully as it is fixed until the end of the Spring Term 2018. We are advising you now as there is still an opportunity to query the advised amount if you don't agree with it. In particular, you should be aware that the qualified leader supplementary rates have been determined using a data request from providers during the period 5th to the 12th February (Requests for changes to the hourly rate should be emailed to eyfinance@kent.gov.uk or made in writing by no later than **Friday 30 March 2018**. This will be the last opportunity to amend the data used to determine the hourly rates for 2018-19, so please ensure all the relevant data is submitted correctly.

It is also important that you let us know if you think the hourly rate is overstated as we will continue to check and confirm the accuracy of information upon which the hourly rates are determined. We will fully recover any amounts that have been paid based on information subsequently found to be incorrect.

For further information on the EYSFF and to access a budget calculator to help estimate potential payments using your new rate, please see the following link:

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/school-management/data-and-reporting/management-information/early-years-free-entitlement>

The hourly rate for two year olds is confirmed as a fixed rate of £5.02 per child for 2018-19.

In 2018-19 the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for three and four year old children will continue to be paid at £0.53 per hour. Further information, including details of the eligibility criteria and the application process can be found via the above link:

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Dunkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Matt Dunkley CBE
Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

