

Funding Periods

	From	To
Autumn 2021	1 st September 2021	31 st December 2021
Spring 2022	4 th January 2022	17 th April 2022
Summer 2022	18 th April 2022	31 st August 2022

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 2021	14 weeks	210 hours
Spring 2022	11 weeks	165 hours
Summer 2022	13 weeks*	195 hours

Funding over 48 weeks - Stretched

up to 12 hours per week

Autumn 2021	16 weeks	192 hours
Spring 2022	14 weeks	168 hours
Summer 2022	18 weeks	216 hours

***Please note: Due to Easter bank holidays falling late this year, if a child attends on a Monday, 2 days will need be offered at the end of Summer term to ensure the child receives their full entitlement. Please refer to the sample calendars in KELSI to assist with working dates out.**

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 2021:	Friday 25 th June – Tuesday 6 th July 2021
Spring 2022:	Friday 12 th November – Tuesday 23 rd November 2021
Summer 2022:	Friday 4 th March – Tuesday 15 th March 2022

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

Headcount Weeks for 3 and 4 Year Old Funding

Autumn 2021:	Monday 13 th September – Friday 17 th September 2021
Spring 2022:	Monday 17 th January – Friday 21 st January 2022
Summer 2022:	Monday 25 th April – Friday 29 th April 2022

Payment Dates for 3 and 4 Year Old Funding

Autumn 2021:	Interim:	W/C Wednesday 1 st September 2021
	Balancing:	W/C Monday 1 st November 2021
Spring 2022:	Interim:	W/C Tuesday 4 th January 2022
	Balancing:	W/C Monday 21 st February 2022
Summer 2022:	Interim:	W/C Tuesday 19 th April 2022
	Balancing:	W/C Monday 13 th June 2022

Term	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds	Whole DOB Range
Autumn 21	01/09/2017 to 31/08/2018	01/09/2016 to 31/08/2017	01/09/2016 to 31/08/2018
Spring 22	01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017	01/01/2017 to 31/12/2018
Summer 22	01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019	01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018	01/04/2017 to 31/03/2019
Autumn 22	01/09/2018 to 31/08/2019	01/09/2017 to 31/08/2018	01/09/2017 to 31/08/2019

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.