

Funding Guidance for Free Early Education Entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds for Autumn Term 2020.

The DfE has confirmed in its [guidance](#) that Local Authorities should continue to fund providers that are open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in Autumn 2020 had there been no Coronavirus. The guidance is clear that settings who remain closed other than on the advice of Public Health England will **not be** funded.

The guidance also states that local authorities should avoid double funding wherever possible by ensuring that providers submit accurate claims for children at Headcount in September 2020.

In light of this guidance providers will be paid for three and four year olds in accordance with **normal** funding arrangements as follows:

- Estimate payments will be made week commencing 7 September 2020.
- Headcount will be open as usual week commencing 14 September 2020. Providers **must** enter a complete and accurate headcount in order to ensure they receive their balancing payment week commencing 2 November 2020. Providers **must** ensure that they only enter children on headcount for whom they have a signed parental declaration form.
- Late joiners – i.e. children who arrive at a setting from another local authority or who have never accessed a place at a Kent setting before will be paid for through the normal process.

COVID-19 Supplementary Payment (CSP) for the Autumn Term

Once Headcount has closed and any adjustments made, Kent County Council (KCC) will compare Autumn 2020 claims with Autumn 2019 claims to see where providers may be adversely affected by parental demand due to COVID-19. In such cases a separate COVID-19 Supplementary Payment (CSP) may be paid in December 2020. Please note that the CSP will only be made to those providers who submit a valid headcount for Autumn 2020 by the deadline date.

Providers who were not open or, had only just opened, in Autumn 2019 will be compared against their Spring and Summer 2020 claims. Providers who have recently re-registered will have their figures based on their previous setting registration if no other changes have taken place. In such instances, please notify Management Information of your previous setting name and URN.

Further Adjustments

If children move settings after Headcount the normal funding rules apply, being that providers can make arrangements between themselves to share or pass on funding, otherwise the parent must pay for their place until the start of the following term. If a child is forced to move settings due to a COVID-19 lockdown, providers should contact Management Information to discuss if this child is added as an adjustment.

If a CSP is granted, any incorrect or missed off of headcount adjustments received after the CSP has been calculated and paid in December 2020 will be deducted from the CSP before any additional monies are transferred to the setting.

Free for Two (FF2)

Payments for two year olds will be made four times per year as per current funding arrangements on 28 September, 26 October, 30 November, and 21 December 2020. We would urge **all** providers to submit claims at each of these points in order to ensure maximum funding is received to assist with cashflow. KCC will again monitor claims and if, as a result of COVID-19, demand is low, KCC will consider a CSP payment in December 2020.