

Early Years Setting Funding Calendar and Payment Schedule

Free Early Education and Childcare Period
Sept 2024 – Aug 2025



This document details the funding periods and payment dates for early years settings in Kent offering Free For Two Funding, 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 2024	2 September 2024	31 December 2024
Spring 2025	2 January 2025	11 April 2025
Summer 2025	14 April 2025	31 August 2025

Maximum Funded hours

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

Age Range	FEE Entitlement	Yearly Hours	Maximum Entitlement per Age Range
9 Months +	Working Parent Entitlement	570	A maximum of 570 for eligible 9 months +
2 Year Olds	Free For Two Funding	570	A maximum of 570 for eligible 2 year olds - only one entitlement can be claimed at any one time
2 Year Olds	Working Parent Entitlement	570	
3&4 Year Olds	Universal Entitlement	570	A maximum of 1140 for eligible 3&4 year olds
3&4 Year Olds	Working Parent Entitlement	570	

Management Information will deduct/cap any overclaimed hours in the final term of the child's funding year.

Date of Birth Ranges 2024/25

Term	9 Months +	2 Year Olds	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds	Whole 3&4 DOB Range
Autumn 2024	01/09/2022 to 30/11/2023	01/09/2021 to 31/08/2022	01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021	01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020	01/09/2019 to 31/08/2021
Spring 2025	01/01/2023 to 31/03/2024	01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022	01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021	01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020	01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Summer 2025	01/04/2023 to 30/06/2024	01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022	01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021	01/04/2020 to 31/03/2022
Autumn 2025	01/09/2023 to 30/11/2024	01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023	01/09/2021 to 31/08/2022	01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021	01/09/2020 to 31/08/2022

For further information on which term a child's funded year starts, please see page 10 of the Kent Provider Agreement [Kent-Provider-Agreement_April-24.pdf](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/Kent-Provider-Agreement_April-24.pdf) ([kelsi.org.uk](https://www.kelsi.org.uk)).

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Funding Rates

The funding base rates for providers in 2024/25 are as follows:

3 & 4 Year Olds	£5.16
2 Year Olds	£7.55
9 Months +	£10.26
EYPP	0.68p per funded hour

Additional funding may be added for providers who qualify for the quality supplementary rates. Deprivation supplements will no longer be added to provider rates and will be an additional payment made by KCC's Finance Team.

Funded Weeks

In line with the Kent Provider Agreement, providers can 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 2024 **14 weeks** **210** hours

Spring 2025 **11 weeks** **165** hours

Summer 2025 **13 weeks** **195** hours

Funding over 48 weeks - Stretched

up to 12 hours per week

Autumn 2024 **16 weeks** **192** hours

Spring 2025 **14 weeks** **168** hours

Summer 2025 **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 and childcare hours. Please be aware that the choice of whether to stretch the funding is up to each Provider and is not obligatory.

Free Early Education and Childcare claims can only be submitted under a 38 week or 48 week pattern. If you wish to deliver the funding entitlements outside of these options, please refer to the stretched funding calculator, child tracker and sample calendars on the KELSI to ensure you claim the correct number of funded hours.

Submitting Funding Claims

All Free Early Education and Childcare claims* are submitted to Management Information via the Synergy FIS Provider Portal and follow an estimate and actual attendance / headcount collection process. Providers **must** have a signed Parental Declaration Form before submitting any claims. Any new children starting after the headcount submission window (who have not attended another Kent provision in that funding period) or amendments to claims can be submitted via the adjustment tab in the provider portal and will be paid in line with the payment windows specified.

**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 - [Claiming EYPP and DAF - KELSI](#). Payment for eligible children will be made in line with the set payment dates on pages 3&4.*

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Free For Two Funding

Free For Two Funding is for the most disadvantaged two year olds in Kent. Estimate and actual attendance 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 headcount claim should only be submitted for those children who are accessing their **full** funded hours during the designated headcount week. Funding is based on one claim, per term, per child for these entitlements. Universal hours and the Working Parent Entitlement hours **cannot** be increased after headcount week. If a parent wishes to increase their hours, they will need to wait until the following term or pay for the additional hours.

Designated Headcount Weeks:

Autumn 2024: Monday 9 September – Friday 13 September 2024
 Spring 2025: Monday 13 January – Friday 17 January 2025
 Summer 2025: Monday 28 April – Friday 2 May 2025

EYPP

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is based on up to 15 funded hours a child is receiving for the term across all the entitlements (*EYPP is not payable on the additional 15 hours entitlement for 3&4 year-old children of working parents*).

Providers must add the parent details from the Parental Declaration Form onto the child’s funding claim in the provider portal and tick the EYPP consent box to allow KCC to complete an EYPP check on all children, EYPP will then be added to the child’s claim for the term. If a child meets the non-economic criteria, then providers can follow the application process on KESLI - [Claiming EYPP and DAF - KESLI](#).

Submission Windows and Payment Dates:

Autumn 2024

Submission Type	Claims to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal:	Payments will be made week commencing:
Estimate	21 June - 2 July 2024	2 September 2024
Actual Attendance / Headcount	2 September - 17 September 2024	11 November 2024
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	18 September - 8 November 2024	9 December 2024
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	9 November - 13 December 2024	6 January 2025

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Spring 2025

Submission Type	Claims to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal:	Payments will be made week commencing:
Estimate	15 November - 26 November 2024	6 January 2025
Actual Attendance / Headcount	2 January - 21 January 2025	3 March 2025
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	22 January - 28 February 2025	31 March 2025
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	1 March - 28 March 2025	14 April 2025

Summer 2025

Submission Type	Claims to be submitted on the Synergy provider portal:	Payments will be made week commencing:
Estimate	7 March - 18 March 2025	14 April 2025
Actual Attendance / Headcount	14 April - 6 May 2025	23 June 2025
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	7 May - 13 June 2025	14 July 2025
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	14 June - 11 July 2025	11 August 2025
Late Joiner / Adjustment claims	12 July - 15 August 2025	1 September 2025

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 Early Education - KELSI](#)

Early Year 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. Census week will be 13 – 17 January 2025 and providers will have until 31 January 2025 to submit their return.

Failure to submit a census will result in your Spring term actual attendance/ headcount payment and any subsequent payments being placed on hold until it is received.

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 Free Early Education and Childcare funding. KCC, its agents or any person authorised by KCC, will also carry out checks as a result of a complaint or concern.