EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

Early Years Funded Entitlements from 9 months to 4 Year-Olds

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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EARLY YEARS PROVIDER PORTAL

Where can I find messages that have been sent in the Portal?

Messages can be found on the "Home" page of the Portal. All messages that relate to funded entitlements are sent via the Portal, so please visit this section regularly.

Please visit section 3 of the Early Years Provider Portal User Guide for more details about how to find the messages area.

Where can I find details of the funding arrangements for each term?

Each term information is issued with the funding pack that details all the deadline dates, funding rates and any other important information for that term.

This can be found in the "My messages" section of the Portal and is usually titled "Paperwork".

What is the funding timetable for this year?

Early Years Funded Free Entitlement For Under 5s - Timetable Academic Year 2025/26

(#) by 4pm	Autumn Term 2025/26	Spring Term 2025/26	Summer Term 2025/26
Claim Forms for Headcount Actual Issued (#)	10 July 2025	08 December 2025	16 March 2026
Headcount Actual Task Opens (#)	30 July 2025	15 December 2025	23 March 2026
Eligibility Code Deadline Date	*31 August 2025*	*31 December 2025*	*31 March 2026*
Term Starts	01 September 2025	05 January 2026	13 April 2026
Headcount Actual Task Closes @ 11:59pm	**05 September 2025**	**09 January 2026**	**17 April 2026**
Headcount Actual Payment Released from GCC (*) - 1st Instalment	19 September 2025	23 January 2026	01 May 2026
2nd Instalment received by	28 September 2024	28 January 2026	28 May 2026
3rd Instalment received by	28 October 2025	28 February 2026	28 June 2026
4th Instalment received by	28 November 2025	28 March 2026	28 July 2026
Headcount Actual payment breakdown lists issued (#)	22 September 2025	26 January 2026	05 May 2025
Headcount Amendment Task Opens (#)	03 November 2025	02 February 2026	01 June 2026
Headcount Amendment Task Closes @ 11:59pm	**28 November 2025**	**06 March 2026**	**26 June 2026**
Headcount Amendment Payment Released from GCC (*)	12 December 2025	20 March 2026	10 July 2026
Headcount Amendment payment breakdown lists issued (#)	15 December 2025	23 March 2026	13 July 2026
Number of funded weeks	14 weeks	11 weeks	13 weeks
Term Ends	19 December 2025	27 March 2026	20 July 2026

*(*) We do endeavour to meet the published payment dates for the 1st Instalment and the Amendment payment, but they are not guaranteed due to IT issues out of our control. The payment dates are when the funds leave Gloucestershire County Councils bank account and it can then take up to **3 working days** to reach your bank account. Please ensure that you have adequate funds to avoid any cash flow problems should we, for some reason, be unable to make the payments on the scheduled dates.*

Where can I find a copy of the Early Years Provider Portal User Guide?

Printed versions of the user guide were issued to all providers claiming funding in 2019. Digital copies have been issued to providers new to the funding scheme from then onwards.

If you cannot find your copy, please email the Early Years Funding Team and we can send you a digital copy of the guide.

Every time I try to reset my Portal password, it won't work?

When you select the "Forgotten Password" option from the log in screen, you will receive an email with a hyperlink and a temporary password. You must close the Portal session you had open and click on the link in the email. Enter your username and copy and paste the temporary password from the email into the Portal session that has now opened from the link. You will then have the option to reset the temporary password to one of your choice.

Ensure you use the right criteria for your new password:

* It must be a minimum of 10 characters but not more than 128 characters long
* It must contain a minimum of 2 numbers
* It must contain a minimum of 1 lower case character
* It must contain a minimum of 1 upper case character
* It must contain minimum 1 special characters **(Do Not Use '£' symbol)**
* It must not be same as the username
* It must not be same as the previous 10 passwords
* It must not numerically increment from previous password

Where can I find an amendment form?

Amendment forms are included in each funding pack and can be found in the "My messages" section of the Portal and is usually titled "Paperwork".

You can also find the forms on our website at:

Early Years Funding Claims | Early Years Service

How do I increase/decrease hours on a task?

Hours claimed can be revised in an amendment task. You should not enter just the revised hours but the average hours for the term.

E.g. If a child attends 15 hours per week for 6 weeks and decreases it to 9 hours for the remaining 6 weeks of the term. On the amendment task you would enter the average of 12 hours per week for the 12 week term.

1.0 In the Yellow Column enter the number of hours attended
2.0 In the Orange Column enter the number of weeks attended before the hours Changed
3.0 The Average Hours is Calculated in the Black Cell Highlighted in Red

No of Hours	For Number of weeks	Total Hours
15	6	90
9	6	54
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0

Total No of Weeks =	12
Total Hours for Term =	144

Average Hours=	12

The "Average Hours Calculator" should be used for these calculations, and they can be found at:
Early Years Funding Claims | Early Years Service

I have a funded child leaving my setting, what do I enter on the Portal task?
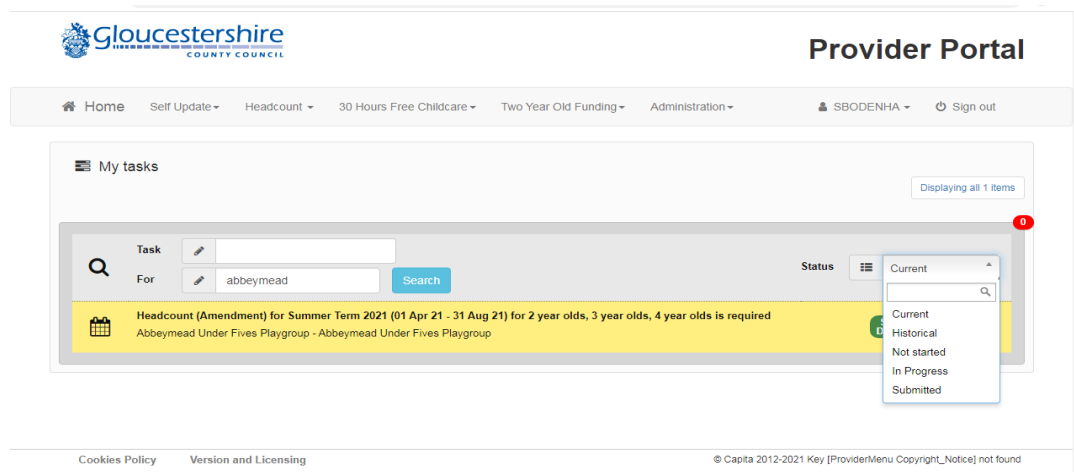
You enter their leaving date in the "Date Child Left Setting (Blank if still there)" field and using the weeks identified as the first and final funded week in the funding pack information sheet, you must also amend the "Weeks Attended for term" to reflect the number of weeks you are now claiming. Entering a start date or leaving date does not automatically calculate the number of funded weeks you wish to claim, you do have to manually revise the number of weeks.

I've added a child to the Portal task in error, what should I do?

The child cannot be deleted from your task but will disappear once a full clear term of no funding claims has passed. Do not enter any weeks or hours for the child but please enter an end date against the child on the task.

How do I access old headcount tasks?

Previous tasks can be viewed by changing the "Status" in the "My tasks" area of the Portal to "Historical". Once a task has closed, you cannot submit any changes to the task.
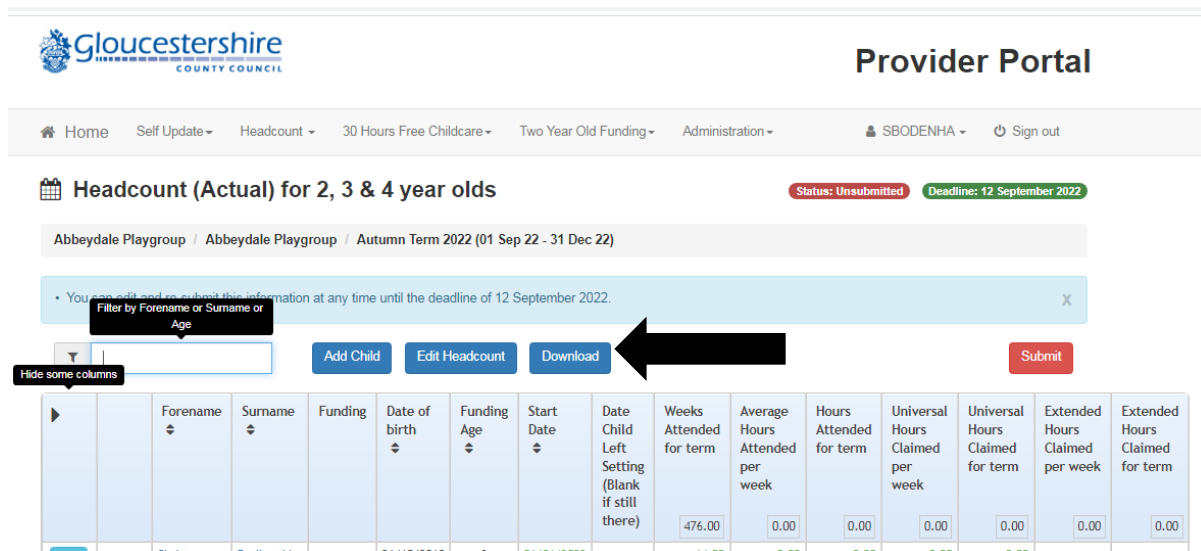

Please visit section 9 of the Early Years Provider Portal User Guide for more details.

Can I only submit my task once?

No, you can submit your funding tasks as many times as you need to before the closing date, but they cannot be submitted after the closing date. Please make sure the data entered for names, addresses, etc are accurate as incorrect data on multiple submissions will create multiple errors for us to resolve which can potentially delay the payment.

Can I download a headcount task onto a spreadsheet?

Yes, when you have completed a headcount task, you can create an Excel spreadsheet to keep for your records of all the claims you have submitted. This can be helpful for funding claim reconciliations (comparing submitted to paid).

Should I check the payment breakdown each time?

Yes, when you receive your payment breakdown statement you **must** check through the funding you have received each time. The statement may differ from your original claims if we have had to apportion the claims. Please use this information to ensure you are invoicing your parents correctly but also to correct claim errors as soon as possible.

Why are the tasks and funding paperwork issued so late in the term?

We must ensure that all claims have been submitted and finalised in a term before the tasks and paperwork for the following term are issued. This is to avoid discrepancies and any confusion around term dates. Also, the Early Years Funding Team are fully engaged with the amendment payment, ensuring that the deadline date for the payment is met.

Blank parent declaration forms and amendment forms are available in each terms funding pack and, following feedback, are also uploaded to our website.

WORKING PARENT ENTITLEMENT (WPE) FUNDING

When can parents start claiming Working Parent Entitlement (WPE) funding for their child?

A child of working parents is entitled to funded early years provision if the child has attained the relevant age, is under compulsory school age and the child's parent(s) meets the eligibility criteria. They can apply for the Working Parents Entitlement funded childcare, via the Childcare Choices website (Homepage | Best Start in Life), from when the child is 23 weeks old.

A child will be entitled from the term after both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1 - the child has reached the relevant age and is eligible to receive funding (see table below) *AND*
2 - the parents have applied before the deadline date, have a valid eligibility code and the code has a start date on or before:
31st August   for the   Autumn term
31st December   for the   Spring term
31st March   for the Summer term

When child turns the relevant age (9 months, 2, 3 or 4 years)	When they can get their hours from
1st January and 31st March	Term starting on or after 1 April
1st April and 31st August	Term starting on or after 1 September
1st September and 31st December	Term starting on or after 1 January

Providers should be aware that there is a review and appeals process available to parents if they disagree with the eligibility outcome as determined by HMRC. The review and appeals process is managed by HMRC.

What are the termly deadlines dates for parents to apply for their eligibility codes?

Parents MUST apply before the following deadline dates and the code must have a start date on or before:
- *31st August for the Autumn term,*
- *31st December for the Spring term*
- *31st March for the Summer term*.

How do I check a WPE code for a new child?

Using the "Run a new check" option in the Portal, select "Child not found" and add the child's details. Please check a child's eligibility before you add them onto your Headcount.

Full details can be found in Section 5 of the Early Years Provider Portal User Guide.

Please contact eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you do not have access to a user guide.

What funding can I claim if a child turns 2 during the term?

If one of your children turns 2 during the term and they have a valid WPE code, you can claim during that term. You do not have to wait until the term after the child's 2ⁿᵈ birthday.

Where do I enter WPE hours for a child of any age on my headcount task?

For all children with an eligible WPE code, their hours are entered into the extended/expanded column on the headcount. The first 15 hours for 3 & 4 year olds will go into the "Funded/Universal Hours Claimed per week" and the balance will go into the extended/expanded column. However, please consider the split of hours your parents have requested, if they are also attending another provider.

Why can't I enter extended/expanded hours on the headcount task?

If the eligibility code is not valid in the right term, you will not be able to add extended/expanded hours into the funding task. Please visit "Review previous checks" in the Portal and ensure the "Eligible from" date meets the correct range discussed in Section 5.5 of the Provider Agreement:

If you have added a new child to the headcount task before checking their eligibility code, you will not have access to the extended hours field until the code has been checked correctly and is valid in the term.

Always "Run a new check" for a WPE code for a new child, before you add them to the headcount task.

Can you explain how the "Grace Period" works?

A child will enter the grace period when the child's parents cease to meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) Regulations 2016, as determined by HMRC.

Funding for the extended entitlement cannot be claimed for the first time when an eligibility code is in its Grace Period. This also applies if a child moves settings during the term and wants to claim the Extended Entitlement for the first time at a new setting and the code is in its Grace Period.

Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for notifying a provider where a parent has fallen out of eligibility and inform them of the grace period end date. This information can be found on the Expiration Dashboard within the Early Years Provider Portal.

Further information can be found in section 6 of the Local Provider Agreement.

Can foster carers apply for the Working Parents Entitlement?

Foster parents that engage in paid work outside of their fostering responsibilities may be eligible to the expanded entitlements as long as accessing the additional hours is consistent with the child's care plan. Applications must be made by the child's social worker and the forms should be submitted to eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk. More information can be found at: Working Parent Entitlement for Foster Children | Early Years Service

UNIVERSAL HOURS FOR 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

What if a parent only wants to claim the 15 universal hours for their 3 or 4 year old?

All 3 & 4 years are entitled to up to 15 funded universal hours. An eligibility code is **NOT** needed to claim these hours. Using the information provided by the parent/carer on the signed Parent Declaration Form, add the child to your headcount task as a new starter and enter the hours into the universal hour's column only. There are no additional checks to make.

Can all children access Universal Hours?

15 universal hours are only available to 3 & 4 year olds and can be accessed from the term after the child's 3rd birthday.

Can 3 & 4 year olds still access the Universal Hours when their WPE code is in the Grace Period?

Yes. If the WPE code is not valid for a 3 & 4 year old, you can still claim their 15 universal hours.

Do parents need an eligibility code to access Universal Hours?

Parents do not need a code to access the universal hours.

FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT ENTITLEMENT (FRAS) FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

How do I apply for this funding for a 2 year old?

Parent can find further details and how to apply online at:

[2-year-old-funding for families receiving additional forms of support | Early Years Service](#)

If parents need help applying, providers can support them using the "Assisted Application" menu option under "FRAS Entitlement 2 yr olds" in the Portal.

If the application is linked to Gloucestershire's local criteria, the professional working with the family must submit a referral form and supporting evidence. The form can be found at:

[2-year-old-funding for families receiving additional forms of support | Early Years Service](#)

Why haven't I been paid for a 2-year-old?

You should only claim funding for 2-year-olds that have been successful in securing the FRAS Entitlement and the parent(s) have provided you with evidence of their eligibility email issued by the Early Years Funding Team. We will remove non eligible 2-year-olds from your claim and you will not receive any funding for them until their eligibility has been confirmed.

You must also ensure that your setting has registered to offer 'FRAS Entitlements" for 2-year-olds, by indicating this on your signed Provider Agreement Declaration.

Further information can be found in section 12.12 of the Local Provider Agreement.

Does a 2 year 'TYF' reference code confirm eligibility?

No. When an application is submitted, a reference number is allocated. Confirmation of eligibility is sent to parents in an email issued by the Early Years Funding Team. You should only offer a funded place once you have seen a copy of this confirmation. Once eligibility is confirmed this does not need re-validating and will stay with the child until they move onto 3 & 4 year old funding.

Where do I add the 'TYF' reference number on the Portal task?

The reference number can be added to the "Start Placement Notification" area under the "FRAS Entitlement 2 yr olds" menu option. Please ensure that the details entered are accurate, and it will then match the child to the application. You do not need to validate the reference number in the same way that you do with a WPE code.

What happens when a FRAS 2 year old child turns 3?

If the parents working circumstances haven't changed, 15 hours of funding is still available to that child; and the provider carries on claiming the hours on their headcount in the 'Funded/Universal' column but as part of the 3 & 4 year old scheme and at the revised funding rate.

STRETCHED FUNDING

What is stretched funding?

Stretched funding allows parents to access their funded entitlement over more weeks than just the 38 weeks term time only. It can average their charges over the year, instead of increased costs during school holidays.

Funding can be stretched for any number of weeks from 38 up to 52 weeks. However, please be mindful of your charging policies for Bank Holidays. If you do not charge on these days, you cannot claim hours when stretching the funding.

Stretched funding does not allow families to access more that their entitlement per year. Hours are capped at either 570 or 1,140 per year.

Do I have to offer stretched funding?

No, you do not have to offer stretched funding, but this must be made clear to your funded parents in your agreements/policies with them before they take up a funded place at your setting.

Can I stretch funding if a child attends for more than their funded entitlement?

Yes, you can stretch the child's entitlement equally when applying them to the parent/carers invoices over the year. For example:

Child attends 50 hours per week.
Funded entitlement received = 1,140 hours per year
1,140 hours / 50 weeks = 22.8 hours per week covered by their funded entitlement
Parents will be charged for 27.2 hours per week, plus any additional voluntary contributions.

This does not effect the number of hours that you claim. You continue to claim either 15 or 30 hours per week.

Can I stretch funding if a child attends for less than their funded entitlement?

Yes, you can but you do not claim the full entitlement. For example:

Child attends 10 hours per week
10 hours x 50 weeks = 500 hours from their 570 entitlement
You will claim 13.16 hours (500 hours \ 38 weeks)
You do not claim 570 hours (15hrs x 38wks) for this child as they are only accessing 500 hours.

How do I calculate the hours to claim?

There are stretched funding calculators available for you for the 15 and 30 hour options, so that you do not need to do the calculations manually. These can be found at:

Early Years Funding Claims | Early Years Service

Instructions

Please enter the weekly hours attended at your settings in the **yellow cell**

Please enter the amount of weeks you are stretching the entitlement over in the **purple cell**

– *The amount of funding you can claim for the child per week will automatically appear in the* **green cell**

number of hours attended per week	number of weeks stretching the entitlement over per YEAR	number of LA funded weeks per year	number of hour to claim per week	Total number of hours funding you will receive in the Autumn term	Total number of hours funding you will receive in the Spring term	Total number of hours funding you will receive in the Summer term	Total number of hours funding you will receive in the academic year
10	50	38	13.16	184.21	157.89	157.89	500.00

Entering different hours and weeks will change the figures, giving examples of how stretched funding claims can vary to reflect individual children's patterns of attendance.

How do I enter stretched funding claims on the headcount task?

The "number of hours to claim per week" from the stretched funding calculator is what you must enter on the Portal, and you must also use this figure in the "Average hours attended per week" column on the headcount task.

To claim the stretched hours, you need to condense the yearly total into 38 weeks for the funding tasks. Therefore, these figures could be more than a child's actual weekly attendance but this reflects their stretched yearly hours instead.

How do I apply the stretched hours to a parent's invoice?

You must ensure that a parents invoice is reduced each week by the number of stretched hours you have claimed. For example:

Child attends for 20 hours each week.
You claim 1,000 hours over the year (20 hours x 50 weeks)
Via the fund tasks you receive 26.32 hours per week (1,000 / 38 weeks, you must manage this allocation over the year)
Parents will receive 20 funded hours for 50 weeks
Parents can be charged for any private additional hours that they choose to attend and any voluntary contributions.

Can a child stretch funding at an all year round setting and claim hours at a term time only setting during the same term?

Yes, it is possible to split a child's funded entitlement between a term time only provider and an all year round setting. Parents must indicate on all the Parent Declaration Forms what hours the child attends, and claims, at all settings. We encourage conversations between providers to ensure accurate claims are submitted to avoid overclaims that will be apportioned. Hours claimed over all providers must remain within the termly capped entitlements.

FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

What funding should I claim for a child with additional needs?

We have previously agreed, on an individual basis, that providers can claim the full free entitlement for a child accessing reduced hours to facilitate additional support due to level of need. This arrangement makes it is difficult for us, as a local authority, to know the number of children with SEND in settings, to plan effectively for this and to understand how we can better support you as a sector so that these children are supported effectively.

From January 2026, this agreement will end, and you must only claim for the funded hours that the child attends your setting and if they require additional support to do this, you should contact the EYS Advice Line to discuss a request for support and/or Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF).

Providers should also utilise the Disability Access Fund (DAF) to deliver effective support and make information available to parents about the SEND offer that can be accessed at the provision.

How do I claim DAF?

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced in April 2017 to support disabled children's access to the 3- & 4-year-old universal 15 hours entitlement. From September 2024, this has been extended to include children from 9 months old.

Children may be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:
- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance **(DLA)** and
- The child receives the free early education and childcare entitlement at an approved Early Years provider in Gloucestershire.

The DAF is payable as a lump sum once in a financial year, per eligible child, at the fixed annual rate of **£938** per eligible child.

Obtain a copy of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) notification from the child's parents and scan and email a copy to eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk. We will verify that the criteria has been met and that the DAF has not already been claimed by another provider in the same financial year. If everything is in order, we will raise a payment.

What categories should I use for SEND Status on the headcount task?

The categories you should use are as follows:

- 9 = Early Action (MyPlan)
- L = Early Action Plus (MyPlan Plus)
- E = EHCP
- N = No Special Provision

All the other categories relate to school children's SEND status and should not be used for early years children.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Why haven't I received EYPP for one of my children?

The criteria for EYPP is the same as that used for Free School Meals; for all children who are receiving nursery funding. The checking system for eligibility uses the parent/carers information entered on the Portal task. This information must be the same as that used by DWP. For example, if a parent's legal name is Rebecca, do not use Becky on the Portal as eligibility cannot be confirmed using that information.

Re-check all the parent/carer details have been added accurately on the Portal task. If they have, the child is not eligible for the additional EYPP. If you can see an error, please correct the details in the next funding task.

What can I use of EYPP and DAF funding for?

A document covering the uses of EYPP and DAF is uploaded to our webpage. Please refer to this document:
https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-service/information-for-providers/early-years-business-marketing-finance-support/nursery-education-funding-nef/

I've been paid Deprivation, what is it?

Each financial year Gloucestershire County Council has an annual deprivation budget that is allocated to each term (summer, autumn and spring).

Each postcode in Gloucestershire is given a score from the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). This measures the proportion of all children aged 0 - 15 living in income deprived areas.

The IDACI scores from the children that have claimed early years funding each term are totalled up and the budget for the corresponding term is allocated to the scores. Not all children are eligible if their post code has a lower score in terms of areas of deprivation.

Payment is made at the end of each term once all funding claims and amendments have been made to ensure we have a true reflection of all areas of the county for the IDACI scores.

FEE STRUCTURES AND INVOICING

What can I charge parents for when they access their funded hours at my setting?

Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare. The parents must be able to access this free of charge. There must not be any mandatory charges for parents in relation to the free hours. However, Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services. You can charge parents for the following extras in connection with the free hours, but these charges must be voluntary for the parent:

• Consumables to be used by the child, such as nappies or sun cream.
• Meals and snacks consumed by the child.
• Extra optional activities such as events, celebrations, specialist tuition (for example music classes or foreign languages) or other activities that are not directly related or necessary for the effective delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

You can also charge parents for any additional, private paid hours according to their usual terms and conditions provided taking up private paid hours is not a condition of accessing a free place.

Do I have to publish my fee structure?

The costs of chargeable extras should be published on provider websites or, where they do not have any website, on local authority Family Information Services by January 2026. These should be clear, up-to-date and easily accessible to parents, to enable parents to make an informed choice of provider. They should set out the amounts charged for all the chargeable extras, as well as the pattern of hours that parents can take the entitlements.

Childminders and providers caring for ten or fewer children at any one time are exempt from publishing their fee structures but will need to ensure their invoices are compliant.

How should my invoices be formatted for the chargeable extras?

Invoices and receipts should be clear, transparent and itemised. Your invoices must be broken down separately into:

• the free entitlement hours
• additional private paid hours
• food charges
• non-food consumables charges
• activities charges.

GENERAL TOPICS

Where can I find a copy of the Local Provider Agreement?

The Local Provider Agreement can be found as a download on our website at:

Early Years Funding Claims | Early Years Service

What are the hourly funding rates this year?

The funding rates for 2025/26 are:

- the 9-23 month-old funding base rate will be £10.18 per hour
- the hourly rate for eligible 2-year-olds will be £7.47 per hour
- the 3 & 4 year-old funding base rate will be £5.33 per hour
- the hourly rate for children eligible for EYPP is £1.00 per hour
- a deprivation supplement will be made for all eligible children and will equate to approximately 13p per hour.

I have a funding reclaim; how do I pay it back?

Reclaims roll forward into the next term and your funding claim payment will be reduced by the outstanding reclaim. If you do not claim the following term or you are closing your business, we can make arrangements to issue an invoice or send you online banking details to repay the funding back to GCC.

Details of your reclaims can be found in the Portal in the "Headcount/Funding Documents" section.

Can a child claim Early Years funding once they have started school?

No. A parent can choose to take up their early years funded entitlement with a childcare provider until their child reaches compulsory school age if they choose not to take up their child's right to a place in a state-funded school in the September following their child's fourth birthday or they are choosing to home educate their child.

This does not apply to a child who is being 'phased in' at the beginning of the reception year. Early years funding cannot be claimed once a school place has been accepted, and the child is on the school's register of attendance. Funding for the child's education is then paid to the school.

Independent schools can continue to claim early years funded hours for children at their setting until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Can a child claim funding entitlements for school holidays?

If a child has not used their termly entitlement at another provider, they can claim the remaining balance to cover hours in the school holiday period.

Claims for funded hours for school holiday periods can be added to your amendment task before the deadline date. However, if a child fails to attend the hours claimed, it is a provider's responsibility to notify Gloucestershire County Council so that the monies can be recovered.

I have changed my bank details; do I need to let you know?

Yes, please contact us as soon as possible when you are changing your bank details so that we can ensure we have the correct information in time for the next payment. We will send you a "Bank details form" that will need completing, including a "wet" signature (in pen); this can be scanned back to us.

Will my funding claims be audited?

Gloucestershire County Council reserves the right to audit providers on a regular basis to ensure that no fraudulent claims are being made and to ensure compliance with the requirements of delivering the free entitlements.

The purpose of Gloucestershire's audit is to ensure that the children's data, SEND status, and the hours attended and claimed correspond with the data entered onto the Portal from the signed parent/guardian form. The fee structure of the provider will also be reviewed. Failure to comply will result in non-payment of funding claims.

How long do I need to keep the funding paperwork for?

Accurate registers should be kept for a reasonable amount of time, for example 3 years. Financial records, including signed parental declaration forms, must be retained for 6 years from the end of the last company financial year they relate to. These can be stored electronically.

I am a childminder; can I claim the funded entitlement for my own children and relatives?

A childminder cannot claim funding for providing childcare to their own children or a related child (e.g. niece or nephew) as defined in Section 18 & 20 of the Childcare Act 2006. Early years provision by a childminder for a related child does not count as childcare in legal terms.

Can a child claim funding in another English Local Authority?

All 3 & 4 year-olds in England are entitled to 15 'universal' hours per week of funded nursery education, up to a maximum of 570 hours per year and this can be claimed by any provider in England.

In addition to the above, those families with a valid working parent entitlement code, are eligible to an additional 15 hours; making 30 hours, totalling 1140 hours per year. These hours can also by claimed at any English provider.

Children aged between 9 months to 36 months funding can claim their 15 hours at any English provider if they meet the statutory criteria.

Children who are awarded FRAS for 2 year old funding based on the local criteria, can only claim those hours in their home county.

Can a Gloucestershire child claim funding in Wales?

Any family from Gloucestershire wanting to access childcare at a setting registered with the Welsh Assembly have to apply to Gloucestershire County Council. Each application is assessed on an individual basis, considering the circumstances as to why the family are not accessing childcare in Gloucestershire. Funding is not guaranteed.

Some Welsh providers will fund between 10 – 12 hours per week for 3 & 4 year-olds only. If an application is approved, Gloucestershire will expect the Welsh LA to meet the universal offer available.

Please email eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk for an application form.

Is the Early Years Funding Team available to contact in the school holidays?

Yes, the team are available every workday between 9am – 5pm.

What are the contact details for the Early Years Funding Team?

The team can be contacted at:

eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk

or 01452 328668