

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

Important dates and deadlines for nine month to four year old funding

1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS/WEEKS	FUNDING PERIOD		
	<u>SUMMER 2026</u> 01 Apr - 31 Aug	<u>AUTUMN 2026</u> 01 Sep -31 Dec	<u>SPRING 2027</u> 01 Jan-31 Mar
Maximum number of funded hours if taken 'Term Time Only'	195	210	165
Maximum number of funded weeks if taken 'Term Time' (i.e. over 38wks)	13 weeks	14 weeks	11 weeks
Maximum number of funded weeks if taken 'Stretched' (i.e. over more than 38wks)	22 weeks	17 weeks	13 weeks

AGE OF CHILD	FUNDING PERIOD		
	<u>SUMMER 2026</u> 01 Apr - 31 Aug	<u>AUTUMN 2026</u> 01 Sep - 31 Dec	<u>SPRING 2027</u> 01 Jan - 31 Mar
9 month to 23 months Born between:	01-Apr-2024 and 30-Jun-2025	01-Sep-2024 and 30-Nov-2025	01-Jan-2025 and 31-Mar-2026
2 Year Old Born between:	01-Apr-2023 and 31-Mar-2024	01-Sep-2023 and 31-Aug-2024	01-Jan-2024 and 31-Dec-2024
3 Year Old Born between:	01-Apr-2022 and 31-Mar-2023	01-Sep-2022 and 31-Aug-2023	01-Jan-2023 and 31-Dec-2023
4 Year Old Born between:	01-Apr-2021 and 31-Mar-2022	01-Sep-2021 and 31-Aug-2022	01-Jan-2022 and 31-Dec-2022

EARLY YEARS CENSUS	FUNDING PERIOD		
	<u>SUMMER 2026</u> 01 Apr - 31 Aug	<u>AUTUMN 2026</u> 01 Sep - 31 Dec	<u>SPRING 2027</u> 01 Jan - 31 Mar
Census Date:	Thursday 21 May	Thursday 01 Oct	Thursday 21 Jan
Census Week	Mon 18 May to Fri 22 May	Mon 28 Sept to Fri 02 Oct	Mon 18 Jan to Fri 22 Jan
Final Date for Headcount Submission:	Fri 22 May	Fri 02 Oct	Friday 22 Jan

NB: Data supplied must be based on the week including headcount date.

DEADLINES	FUNDING PERIOD		
	SUMMER 2026 01 Apr - 31 Aug	AUTUMN 2026 01 Sep - 31 Dec	SPRING 2027 01 Jan - 31 Mar
Actual Headcount Task made available from	Mon 16 Feb to Fri 27 Feb	Mon 22 Jun to Fri 03 Jul	Mon 26 Oct to Fri 06 Nov
Adjustment period 1 Headcount task made available from	Mon 11 May to Fri 22 May	Mon 21 Sep to Fri 02 Oct	Mon 11 Jan to Fri 22 Jan
Adjustment period 2 Headcount task will be made available once the previous task has been completed. Final Deadline will be:	Fri 24 Jul	Fri 27 Nov	Fri 12 Mar
Actual Payment will be processed	During 1st week of funding period	During 1st week of funding period	During 1st week of funding period
Final Payment will be processed	Final week of funding period	Final week of funding period	Final week of funding period
Working family eligibility codes issued between:	01 Jan and 31 Mar	01 Apr and 31 Aug	01 Sep and 31 Dec
Working family funding can be accessed from:	01 Apr	01 Sep	01 Jan

SCHOOL TERMS	FUNDING PERIOD		
	SUMMER 2026 01 Apr - 31 Aug	AUTUMN 2026 01 Sep - 31 Dec	SPRING 2027 01 Jan - 31 Mar
Maintained Schools Term Starts	13 Apr	01 Sep	04 Jan
Maintained Schools Half Term	25 May - 29 May	26 Oct - 30 Oct	15 Feb - 19 Feb
Maintained Schools Term Ends	22 Jul	18 Dec	25 Mar
Bank/Public holidays	03 Apr 04 May 31 Aug 06 Apr 25 May	25 Dec 28 Dec	01 Jan

Please note: All dates are subject to change.

FURTHER INFORMATION - Parental Declaration forms must be completed for all eligible nine month to four-year-old funded children. All forms must be fully completed, dated and signed by the parent prior to running eligibility checks for the working parent's entitlement and for audit purposes. Please ensure that where children are sharing their funding across more than one provider, their parents indicate on the form the number of hours they are using at each provider and whether they are universal, extended or expanded. A copy of the form can be found on the Traded Services website under early years resources - Funding. The Stretched offer should be calculated as follows: The maximum yearly entitlement of 570/1140 hours divided by the number of weeks the provision is open and providing funded hours e.g., 570/1140 hours ÷ 50 weeks = 11.4/22.8 hours per week. Weekly hours (11.4/22.8hrs) should then be claimed for each funding period e.g., summer = 21 weeks (239.4/478.8 hours), autumn = 16 weeks (182.4/364.8 hours), spring = 13 weeks (148.2/296.4 hours).

The eligibility checker on the Provider Portal should be used on a regular basis to track eligibility of working family codes.