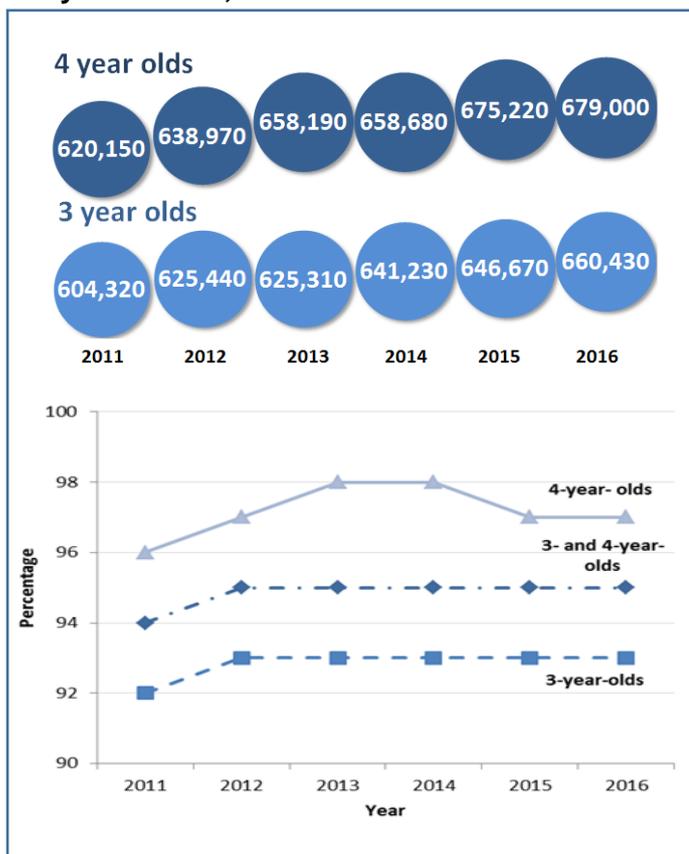




SFR 23/2016, 30 June 2016

## Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting has increased

Figure A: Number and estimated participation rates of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education, 2011 to 2016



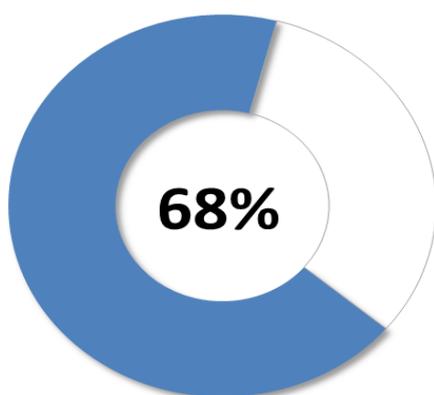
1,339,430 or 95% of the 3- and 4-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education in 2016. The number increased by 17,530 from 1,321,900 in 2015. The estimated participation rate for 3- and 4-year-olds remains the same as last year.

660,430 or 93% of the 3-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education in 2016. The number increased by 13,760 from 646,670 in 2015. The estimated participation rate remains the same as last year.

679,000 or 97% of the 4-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education in 2016. The number increased by 3,780 from 675,220 in 2015. The estimated participation rate remains the same as last year.

## The number of eligible 2-year-olds benefitting increased

Figure B: 68% of eligible 2-year-olds took up some funded early education in January 2016, up from 58% in 2015



The number of 2-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education in 2016 was 166,920 or 68% of the eligible 2-year-old population. The number increased by 9,880 from 157,040 in 2015.

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## About this release

This Statistical First Release (SFR) contains the latest information for January 2016 on provision of education for children under 5 in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors in England, together with figures for earlier years. The data was collected from schools, maintained nurseries, local authorities and private, voluntary and independent providers (PVI) in January 2016 as part of the early years census, spring school census and the school level annual school census (for general hospital schools).

## In this publication

The following tables are included in the SFR:

- Main tables (Excel .xls)
- Underlying data (open format .csv and metadata .txt)

The accompanying technical document, provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

## Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at [EarlyYears.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYears.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk)

# 1. Numbers benefitting from some funded early education, by age

(Tables 1 to 5LA in excel tables)

## Eligibility for funded early education

All 4-year-olds have been entitled to a funded early education place since 1998 and in 2004 this was extended to all 3-year-olds. Since September 2010 all 3- and 4-year-olds have been entitled to 570 hours a year of funded early education over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year (which equates to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year).

From September 2013, the entitlement to 15 hours of funded early education per week for 38 weeks of the year was extended to 2-year-olds who met the following eligibility criteria: they have a parent in receipt of: income support; income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA); income-related employment and support allowance (ESA); support through Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income not exceeding £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit); or they are looked after by a local authority. During the early introduction of Universal Credit, children in families in receipt of Universal Credit are also entitled to a funded early education place.

From September 2014, the entitlement to 15 hours of funded early education per week for 38 weeks of the year was extended further to 2-year-olds who met the following eligibility criteria: they have a parent in receipt of Working Tax Credits and have an annual gross income not exceeding £16,190 a year as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; they have a current statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care plan; they are entitled to Disability Living Allowance; they are no longer looked after by the local authority as a result of an adoption order, a special guardianship order, or a child arrangements order which specifies with whom the child lives.

The number of children benefitting from some funded early education is calculated as the head count of children in receipt of some funded early education. Where they are receiving funded early education at more than one private, voluntary or independent provider, they have only been counted once at the provider where they take the majority of their funded hours.

A child splitting their funded hours between a maintained school and a private, voluntary or independent provider may be counted more than once. This does not impact the national take up rates.

For 3- and 4-year-olds, the eligible population used to calculate take-up rates is the ONS population estimate. For 2-year-olds, take-up rates are expressed as a proportion of the estimated eligible population. This is second time they have been based upon data from the Department for Work and Pensions (for further information see the technical document).

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### **Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting has increased**

In January 2016, the number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 1,339,430, or 95% of the 3- and 4-year old population. The number increased by 17,530 from 1,321,900 in 2015 and the general trend has been increasing from 1,224,470 in 2011. The estimated participation rate for 3- and 4-year olds remains the same as last year but the general trend has increased from 94% in 2011.

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### **Separately, the number of 3-year-olds benefitting has increased ...**

The number of 3-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 660,430 or 93% of the 3-year-old population. The number increased by 13,760 from 646,670 in 2015 and the general trend has been increasing from 604,320 in 2011. The estimated participation rate remains the same as last year but the general trend has increased from 92% in 2011.

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**... and the number of 4-year-olds benefitting also increased**

The number of 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 679,000 or 97% of the four 4-year-old population. The number increased by 3,780 from 675,220 in 2015 and the general trend has been increasing from 620,150 in 2011. The estimated participation rate remains the same as last year but the general trend has increased from 96% in 2011.

---

**68% of eligible 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education**

In January 2016, the number of 2-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 166,920 or 68% of the eligible two year old population. The number increased by 9,880 from 157,040 in 2015 when the percentage take up was 58%.

The eligible population has decreased by 23,700 between 2015 and 2016 which will contribute to the increase in the 2-year-old take up rate.

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## 2. Numbers benefitting by provider type (Tables 8 to 9LA)

For 2016, independent childminders who are registered with Ofsted and have one or more funded children were again required to submit a childminder level return in the early years census. If the return was made by a childminder network then an individual return was required for each childminder within the network.

This represents a change from 2014 onwards where data could be reported as:

1. an individual childminder return, or
2. a single data return covering all childminders who were part of a childminder network.

Whilst this will not affect figures about where a child is receiving their funded education, it will affect figures reporting on the split of providers as the number of childminder 'providers' have increased (for example, Tables 8 and 9).

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**Private and voluntary providers have the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds, but not 4-year-olds**

In January 2016, private and voluntary providers (including childminders) have the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds (91% and 62% respectively). Maintained settings have the greater share of 4-year-olds (79%); this is because the 4-year-old count includes 4-year-olds who started reception in September 2015 but turned 5-years-old after 31 December 2015.

**Figure C: Private and voluntary providers take the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds:  
Percentage of children benefitting by provider type and age: January 2016, England**

	2-year-olds	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	3- & 4-year-olds
	%	%	%	%
Private and Voluntary Providers	87	60	18	39
Childminders	4	2	-	1
Independent Schools	-	2	2	2
Maintained Nursery Schools	3	4	1	3
Nursery Classes in Primary Schools	5	31	13	22
Infant Classes in Primary Schools	-	-	63	32
State-funded Secondary Schools	-	-	1	1
Special Schools	-	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100

**The proportion of 3-year-olds in private and voluntary providers has been gradually increasing since 2011**

The proportional split of 3-year-olds in private and voluntary providers (including childminders) has gradually increased from 58% in 2011 to 62% in 2016, whilst maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools have decreased their share from 39% in 2011 to 35% in 2016.

The proportional split of 4-year-olds across provider types has remained broadly similar over the last 6 years.

**The proportion of 2-year-olds in maintained nursery and nursery classes has been increasing since 2014**

The proportional split of 2-year-olds in maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools has increased from 3% in 2014 to 9% in 2016 whilst private and voluntary providers have decreased their share from 96% in 2014 to 91% in 2016.

### 3. Numbers benefitting by Ofsted inspection rating (Table 14LA & 15LA)

Matching Ofsted inspections data to both the early years census and school census enables local authorities to see whether they are getting value for money and monitor the quality of early years settings receiving government funding to deliver early education places. Further information regarding matching process can be found within the accompanying Technical document.

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#### **86% of 3- and 4-year-olds are in good or outstanding settings**

In January 2016, excluding those providers where we made no match to an Ofsted inspection rating, the number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education at a setting rated good or outstanding was 1,049,410 or 86%. This is up 1 percentage point on last year (85%).

25,680 (2%) of children attended settings rated inadequate. This is the same as last year.

---

#### **84% of 2-year-olds are in good or outstanding settings**

In January 2016, excluding those providers where we made no match to an Ofsted inspection rating, the number of 2-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education at a setting rated good or outstanding was 117,790 or 84%. This is slightly down from 85% last year.

6,340 (4%) of children attended settings rated inadequate. This is slightly up from 3% last year.

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### 4. Numbers recorded as early years pupil premium eligible (Table 18LA)

Early years pupil premium was introduced for disadvantaged 3- and 4-year-olds in April 2015. Children are eligible if they are receiving any number of hours of early education and meet the benefits related criteria for free school meals or are in the care of the local authority (in England and Wales) or have left care through adoption, special guardianship or a child arrangement order. This is the first release of the number of 3- and 4-year-old children eligible for early years pupil premium. These are labelled as 'Experimental Statistics' to reflect that they are new statistics and do not yet meet the overall quality standards necessary to be designated National Statistics. Comparisons between local authorities should be undertaken with caution.

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#### **11.5% of 3-year-olds recorded as eligible for early years pupil premium**

In January 2016, of the 660,430 3-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education, 76,230 were recorded as eligible for early years pupil premium.

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#### **12.1% of 4-year-olds recorded as eligible for early years pupil premium**

In January 2016, 30,555 were recorded as eligible for early years pupil premium. This excludes 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education in infant classes in primary schools, as they would receive the school age pupil premium.

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## 5. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the [department's childcare and early years statistics website](#)

### Number of children and take up rates

- 1 Number of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 1 LA Number of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 2 Number of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 2LA Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 3 Number of 3-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 3LA Number of 3-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 4 Number of 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 4LA Number of 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 5LA Percentage of 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by local authority

### Funded hours (banded)

- 6LA Percentage of 2-year-olds in funded early education, by provider type, number of funded hours and local authority
- 7LA Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in funded early education, by banded number of funded hours and local authority

### Number of providers and numbers at providers

- 8 Number of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by type of provider
- 8LA Number of providers delivering funded early education to 2-year-olds by type of provider and local authority
- 9 Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by type of provider
- 9LA Number of providers delivering funded early education to 3- and 4-year-olds by type of provider and local authority

### Staff qualifications

- 10 Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider
- 10LA Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS who work directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority
- 11 Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider
- 11LA Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS who work directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority
- 12 Number and percentage of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider
- 12LA Number and percentage of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority

- 13 Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS1/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider
- 13LA Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority

#### **Ofsted inspection ratings**

- 14LA Number and percentage of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, by Ofsted inspection rating and local authority
- 15LA Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, by Ofsted inspection rating and local authority

#### **2-year-old basis for funding**

- 16 The basis on which a 2-year-old has been funded for an early education place
- 16LA The basis on which a 2-year-old has been funded for an early education place by local authority

#### **SEN**

- 17LA Number and percentage of 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by Special Needs provision by local authority

#### **Early years pupil premium**

- 18LA Number of 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children recorded as eligible for early years pupil premium by age and local authority

Further information on the tables can be found in the accompanying methodology document.

## **6. Further information is available**

The following are all available on the department's [childcare and early years statistics website](#):

- Previous Statistical First Releases on provision for children under five years of age in England
- Childcare and early years providers survey
- Childcare and early years survey of parents

## 7. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## 8. Technical information

A technical document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

## 9. Get in touch

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Department  
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