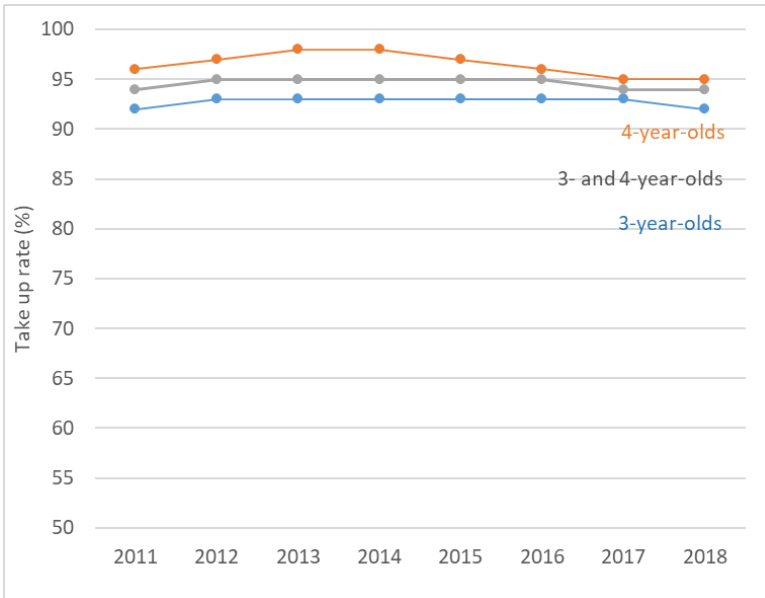




28 June 2018

## Take up of funded early education remains high among 3- and 4-year-olds

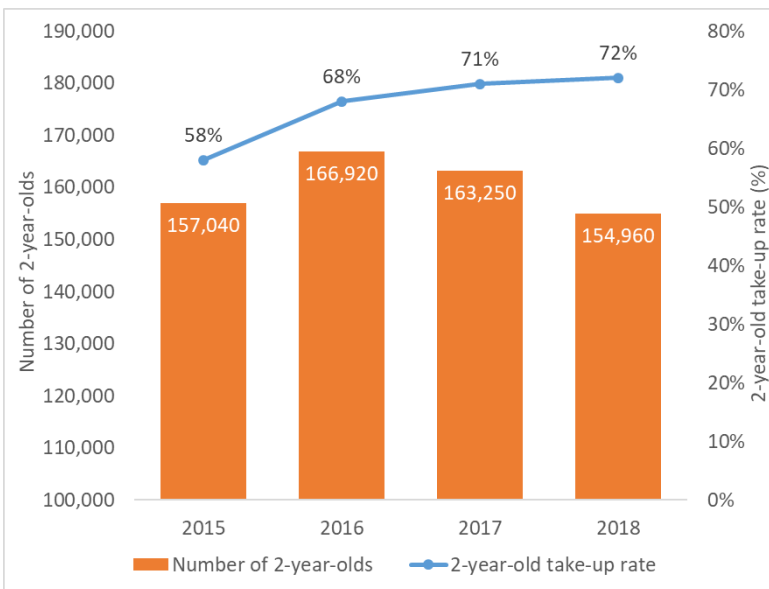


92% of 3-year-olds benefitted from universal funded early education, a slight decrease from 93% in 2017, but the same level as in 2011.

95% of the 4-year-old population benefitted from universal funded early education, the same as in 2017 and down slightly from 96% in 2011.

94% of the 3- and 4-year-old population benefitted from universal funded early education, the same as in 2017 and 2011.

## Take up rate for eligible 2-year-olds increases slightly to 72%



The number of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education decreased by 8,290 from 163,250 in January 2017 to 154,960 in January 2018.

However the eligible population decreased between the two years meaning the percentage taking up a funded place increased, to 72% in 2018, from 71% in 2017 and 58% in 2015.

## For the first time 3- and 4-year-old children benefit from the extended entitlement

In January 2018, 296,920 3- and 4-year-old children benefitted from the extended early entitlement (up to an additional 15 hours – meaning a total of up to 30 hours entitlement). 82% of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from the extended entitlement did so in a private, voluntary or independent provider. 96% of all 3- and 4-year-olds benefitted from the extended entitlement at a setting rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.

# Contents

1.	Numbers benefitting from universal funded early education.....	4
	Number of eligible 2-year-olds.....	4
	Number of 3- and 4-year-olds.....	4
2.	Numbers benefitting from extended early education .....	5
3.	Provider types.....	6
	2-year-olds by provider type .....	6
	Universal entitlement for 3-and 4-year-olds by provider type.....	6
	Extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds by provider type .....	7
4.	Number of providers .....	7
5.	Number benefitting by Ofsted inspection rating.....	8
6.	Accompanying tables.....	8
7.	Further information is available .....	10
8.	National Statistics .....	10
9.	Technical information.....	10
10.	Get in touch .....	10
	Media enquiries .....	10
	Other enquiries/feedback.....	10

### **About this release**

This statistics publication contains the latest information for January 2018 on provision of funded early 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 2018 as part of the early years census, spring school census and the school level annual school census (for general hospital schools).

For the first time this publication includes information on the extended entitlement (30 hours funded early education) and early years staff qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3.

### **In this publication**

The following tables are included in the statistics publication:

- 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 universal funded early education (Tables 1, 2, 4 and 6)

## 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). This is referred to in this publication as the **universal funded early education entitlement**.

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 certain eligibility criteria and from September 2014, it was further extended to more 2-year-olds who met other eligibility criteria. In April 2018 the eligibility criteria changed to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit.

In September 2017, the government doubled the funded early education entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds from working families who meet the eligibility criteria to 30 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year (or 1,140 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year). This is referred to in this publication as the **extended funded early education entitlement**. Further information about the early education entitlements can be found within the accompanying technical document.

## Numbers benefitting from universal funded early education

The number of children benefitting from universal funded early education is calculated as the head count of children in receipt of universal funded early education. Where they are receiving universal 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 universal funded hours.

A child splitting their universal 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 percentage of the estimated eligible population. This is the fourth time they have been based upon data from the Department for Work and Pensions. For further information see the accompanying technical document.

## Number of eligible 2-year-olds

In January 2018, 72% of the eligible 2-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education, up from 71% in 2017. However the number of children benefitting decreased slightly, from 163,250 in 2017 to 154,960 in 2018, reflecting a decrease in the eligible population. Not all 2 year olds are entitled to funded early education. They are eligible if their parents are in receipt of specific state-benefits<sup>1</sup>, the child is looked after or has a special educational need.

## Number of 3- and 4-year-olds

### Population data

In 2013, there was a fall in the number of live births in England and Wales (a fall of 4.3% compared to the previous year). This is a major contributory factor to the decrease in the number of 4-year-olds benefitting from universal funded early education in January 2018. Further information can be found in the [ONS statistical bulletin](#).

The ONS population estimates for 2013 to 2017 used in this publication have been revised, therefore take up rates from these years may differ to those previously published. For further information see the accompanying technical document.

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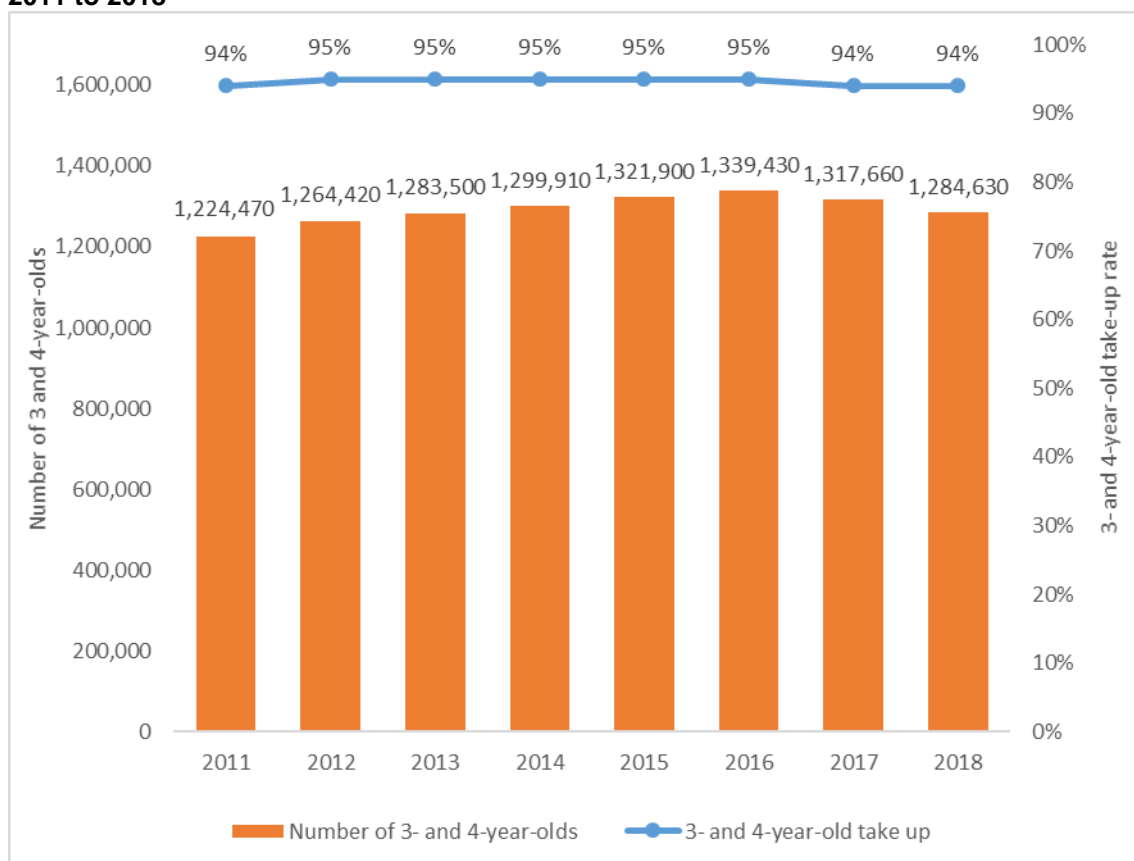
<sup>1</sup> Universal Credit is being rolled out throughout the country on a staged basis. Eligibility criteria for funded education for 2 year-olds includes those children whose parents are in receipt of Universal Credit in 2018, however the numbers are estimated to be small and these children are not included in the eligibility estimates. Children of Universal Credit claimants will be included in future years.

In January 2018, 94% of the 3- and 4-year old population benefitted from some funded early education. The number benefitting decreased by 33,030 from 1,317,660 in January 2017 to 1,284,630, however the estimated participation rate for 3- and 4-year olds remains the same as last year.

92% of the 3-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education, down slightly from 93% in January 2017. The number benefitting decreased by 3,830 from 632,330 to 628,500.

95% of the 4-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education, the same as 2017. The number benefitting decreased by 29,200 from 685,330 in January 2017 to 656,130, reflecting a fall in the overall population of 4-year-olds.

**Figure A: Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year olds benefitting from universal funded early education, 2011 to 2018**



## 2. Numbers benefitting from extended early education (Tables 3LA, 5LA & 7LA)

### Data sources on the extended early entitlement

Since the introduction of the extended entitlement policy in September 2017, the Department for Education has published regular management information to monitor the policy. These consist of [monthly management information](#) on the number of eligibility codes issued and validated, and [termly headcounts](#) of the number of children in a 30-hour place and. While spring term 2018 headcount data (published in March 2018) was based on the same census date as both the January 2018 early years census and schools census, the figures will not align exactly as many LAs were still in the process of finalising and refining their figures when they submitted their headcount data.

This statistics publication gives a definitive picture of the number of children in a 30 hours place in January 2018, along with breakdowns by provider type, Ofsted rating of provider, special educational needs provision and staff qualifications.

This information has been collected and published in this statistics publication for the first time this year. From September 2017, 3- and 4-year-olds from working families who meet the eligibility criteria are entitled

to 30 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year (or 1,140 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year).

In January 2018, 296,920 3- and 4-year-old children benefitted from this extended early entitlement. Estimates suggest around 390,000 children were eligible for the extended hours nationally, suggesting around 3 out of 4 eligible children have taken up some extended hours. Further information on the eligibility estimate can be found in the accompanying technical document.

### 3. Provider types (Tables 12 to 14)

#### 2-year-olds by provider type

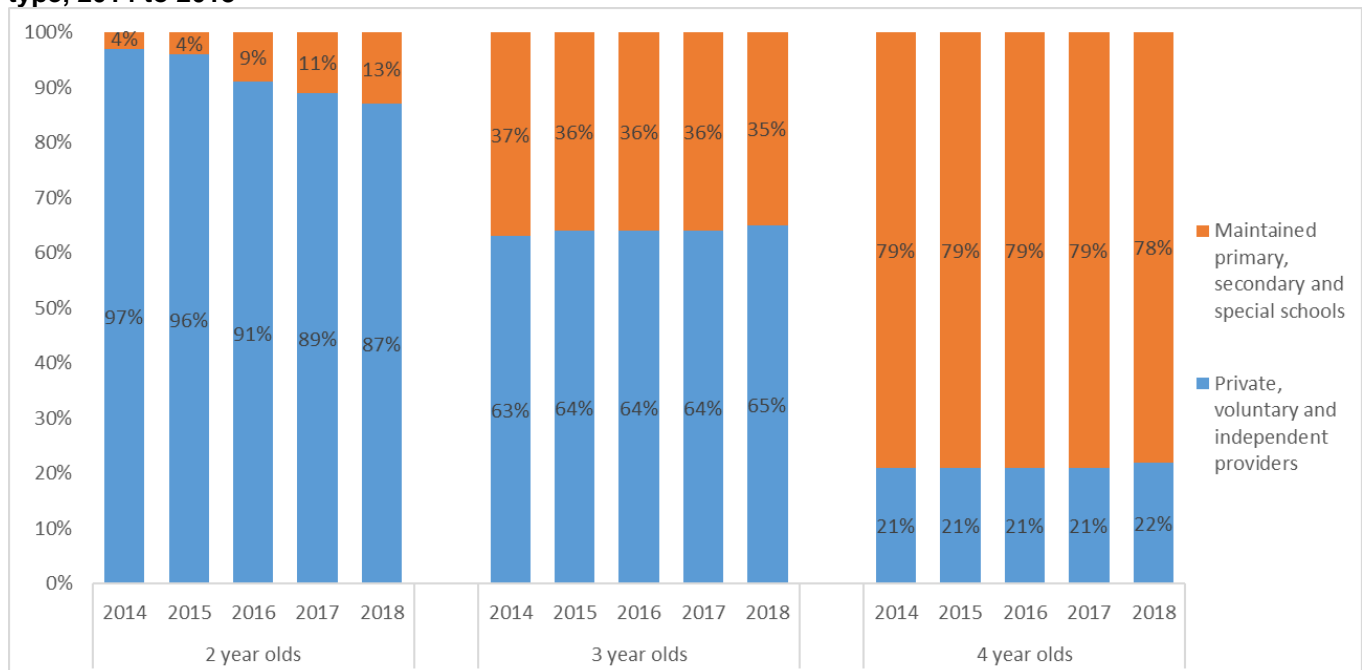
The proportion of 2-year-olds accessing their free entitlement in maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools has increased from a very low base since its introduction in 2014 (See Figure B below), whilst the percentage in private and voluntary providers (including childminders) has decreased. Two factors are likely to have contributed to this increase; the Small Business Enterprise and Employment Act coming into force in 2015 and clearer guidance on which census children should be returned. Further information can be found in the accompanying technical document.

#### Universal entitlement for 3-and 4-year-olds by provider type

The majority of 3-year-olds access their universal entitlement in private and voluntary providers (including childminders). The proportion attending maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools have decreased slightly over the last 5 years.

The proportional split of 4-year-olds across provider types has remained broadly similar in recent years with the majority accessing their universal entitlement in infant classes in primary schools (i.e. reception classes).

**Figure B: Percentage of 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education by provider type, 2014 to 2018**



Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and may not sum to 100%.

## Extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds by provider type

In January 2018, the majority of extended entitlement was provided at private and voluntary providers (including childminders).

82% of 3-year-olds benefitted from some extended entitlement at private and voluntary providers (including childminders). A further 17% of 3-year-olds benefitted at maintained nursery schools and state-funded primary schools, while the remaining provision was at independent schools, state-funded secondary schools and special schools.

For 4-year-olds the pattern was similar, 76% benefitted from some extended entitlement at private and voluntary providers (including childminders) and 22% benefitted at maintained nursery schools and state-funded primary schools.

**Table 1: Percentage of children benefitting by provider type and age**  
England, January 2018

Type of provider	Eligible 2-year-olds	Universal entitlement			Extended entitlement		
		3- and 4 year-olds	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	3- and 4 year-olds	3- year-olds	4-year-olds
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Private and Voluntary Providers	82	40	61	19	74	75	70
Childminders	4	1	2	1	7	7	6
<b>Total Private and Voluntary</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>76</b>
Independent Schools	1	2	2	2	1	1	2
Maintained Nursery Schools	5	3	4	1	3	3	3
Nursery Classes in Primary Schools	8	21	30	13	15	14	19
Infant Classes in Primary Schools	..	32	..	63	..	..	..
State-funded Secondary Schools	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Special Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Early Years Census, School Census and School Level Annual School Census

Percentages are based on unrounded numbers therefore may not sum to totals

## 4. Number of providers (Tables 12, 12LA, 13, 13LA, 14 and 14LA)

For 2-year-olds, the total number of providers is up from 22,570 in 2017 to 22,730 in 2018. Childminders and private and voluntary day nurseries show the largest increase in numbers.

For 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from universal entitlement, the total number of providers is up from 45,530 to 47,670. This is largely due to a rise in the number of childminders.

34,250 settings provided extended funded early education to 3- and 4-year-old children, including 11,220 childminders.

When a child splits their entitlement over more than one provider, the provider where they spend the majority of their time is counted. As childminders often provide wrap-around care, the count of childminders is under-reported by this methodology. Further information is available in the accompanying technical document.

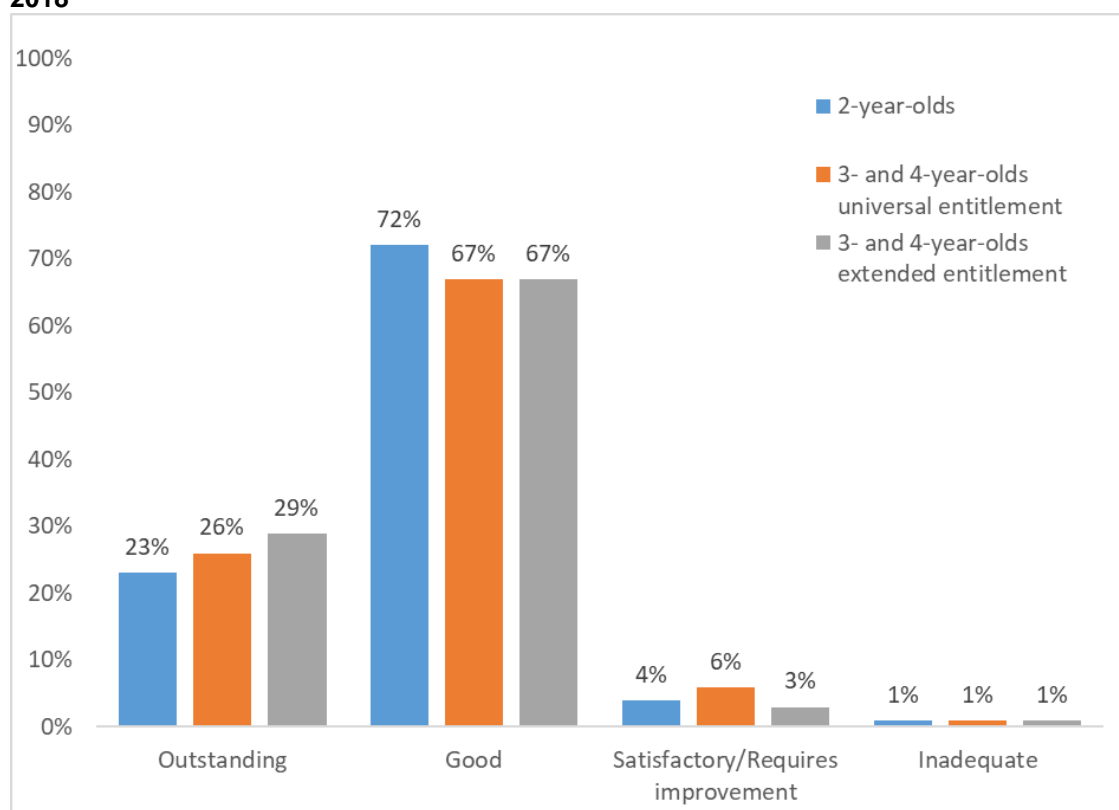
## 5. Number benefitting by Ofsted inspection rating (Tables 16LA & 17LA)

### Numbers benefitting by Ofsted inspection rating

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. Percentages exclude providers where we made no match to an Ofsted inspection rating. Further information regarding matching process can be found within the accompanying technical document.

In January 2018, 95% of 2-year-olds and 93% of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitted from some funded early education at a setting rated good or outstanding. The comparable figure for 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from the extended entitlement was 96%. Only 1% of children across each entitlement above were at a setting rated inadequate.

**Figure C: Percentage of children benefitting from funded early education by Ofsted inspection rating, January 2018**



## 6. Accompanying tables

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

### National tables

- 1 Number of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 2 Number of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from universal funded early education places by type of provider
- 4 Number of 3-year-old children benefitting from universal funded early education places by type of provider
- 6 Number of 4-year-old children benefitting from universal funded early education places by type of provider
- 12 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
- 13 Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from universal funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by type of provider



- 14 Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from extended funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by type of provider
- 20 The basis on which 3- and 4-year-old children were recorded as claiming early years pupil premium
- 21 Number and percentage of early years staff at private, voluntary and independent providers, by highest qualification and category of provider
- 22 Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers and 2, 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers, with staff with EYPS, EYTS and QTS by category of provider
- 23 Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers and 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from extended funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers, with staff with EYPS, EYTS and QTS by category of provider

**Local authority and regional tables**

- 1LA Number of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 2LA Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from universal funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 3LA Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from extended funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 4LA Number of 3-year-olds benefitting from universal funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 5LA Number of 3-year-olds benefitting from extended funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 6LA Number of 4-year-olds benefitting from universal funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 7LA Number of 4-year-olds benefitting from extended funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 8LA Percentage of 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from universal funded early education places by local authority
- 9LA Percentage of 2-year-olds in funded early education, by provider type, number of funded hours and local authority
- 10LA Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in universal funded early education, by banded number of funded hours and local authority
- 11LA Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in extended funded early education, by banded number of funded hours and local authority
- 12LA Number of providers delivering funded early education to 2-year-olds by type of provider and local authority
- 13LA Number of providers delivering universal funded early education to 3- and 4-year-olds by type of provider and local authority
- 14LA Number of providers delivering extended funded early education to 3- and 4-year-olds by type of provider and local authority
- 15LA 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
- 16LA Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from universal 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
- 17LA Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from extended funded early education<sup>1</sup> in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, by Ofsted inspection rating and local authority
- 18LA Number and percentage of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education, and 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from universal funded early education by Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision by local authority

19LA Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from extended funded early education by Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision by local authority

20LA Number of 3- and 4-year-old children recorded as claiming early years pupil premium by age and local authority

22LA Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers and 2, 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers, with staff with EYPS, EYTS and QTS by local authority

23LA Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers and 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from extended funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers , with staff with EYPS, EYTS and QTS by local authority

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

## 7. Further information is available

Data on funded early education is available for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Links to these and other related statistics can be found in the accompanying technical document.

## 8. 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.

## 9. Technical information

A technical document accompanies this publication. 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.

## 10. Get in touch

### Media enquiries

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### Other enquiries/feedback

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Department  
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<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/provision-for-children-under-five-in-england-january-2018>

Reference: [Provision for children under five in England: January 2018]



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