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Reporting year 2025

Funded early education and childcare

This is the latest release



Published 31 July 2025

Last updated 30 July 2025
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Releases in this series

These annual January statistics report on children under 5 registered for government funded entitlements in England and on providers and staff delivering them. Specifically, the:

- universal entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds;
- working parent entitlement for eligible children aged 9 months to 4 years (expanded from April 2024 to include eligible 2-year-olds and expanded from September 2024 to include eligible children aged 9 to 23 months); and
- the families receiving additional support (FRAS) entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds (formerly known as the disadvantaged entitlement).

Whilst the title of this release has changed from 'Education provision: children under 5 years of age' to 'Funded early education and childcare' to better reflect the scope of these statistics, the content published remains unchanged.

Please note that the population estimates used in this release have been revised back to 2011 (more details can be found at the start of the universal entitlement section). Therefore, this latest release should be used to compare the percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement over time.

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Summary

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Total: eligible children
registered

1.7
million

Up 34% or 431,700 from 2024
and highest in the series

► Total: children aged 9 mont...

Universal: percentage of
3 and 4-year-olds
registered

93%

Down 0.5 percentage points from
2024 and the lowest in the series

► Universal: 3 and 4-year-old...

Universal: 3 and 4-year-
olds registered

1.2
million

Down 1.2% or 14,200 from 2024
and lowest in the series

► Universal: 3 and 4-year-olds

WP: percentage of
eligible 9 month to 2-
year-olds registered

73%

Covers new expanded
entitlements

► WP: 9 months to 2 years p...

**WP: eligible 9 month to
2-year-olds registered**

467,000

Covers new expanded
entitlements

► WP: 9 months to 2 years

**WP: percentage of
eligible 3 and 4-year-olds
registered**

91%

Up 5 percentage points from
2024 and highest in the series

► WP: 3 and 4-year-olds perc...

**WP: eligible 3 and 4-
year-olds registered**

379,000

Up 5% or 17,200 from 2024 and
highest in the series

► WP: 3 and 4-year-olds

**FRAS: percentage of
eligible 2-year-olds
registered**

65%

Down 10 percentage points from
2024

► FRAS: 2-year-olds percent...

**FRAS: eligible 2-year-
olds registered**

95,000

Down 18% or 20,800 from 2024
and lowest in the series

► FRAS: 2-year-olds

In 2025, 1.7 million children were registered for government funded entitlements, up a third or over 400,000 children from a year earlier. This represents the highest figure in the series (started 2011) and is driven by children aged 9 months to 2 years registered for the expanded working

parent entitlement.

Universal entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds

In 2025, the estimated percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement fell slightly to the lowest in the series (started 2011). Whilst it has been on a declining trend since the series peak of 97% in 2018, it has remained above 90% throughout the series.

In 2025, both the estimated population of all 3 and 4-year-olds and the number of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement fell to the lowest in the series. This continues the downward trend seen since 2016, following a decline in births in recent years.

Working parent entitlement for eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years

Just under half a million eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years were registered for the expanded working parent entitlement in 2025, with an estimated 7 in 10 eligible children registered.

Please note that this figure should be treated with caution as it includes some 2-year-olds who, according to statutory guidance, should have been recorded under the FRAS entitlement (see 'Working parent entitlement' section, sub-section 'Eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years' for more information).

Working parent entitlement for eligible 3 and 4-year-olds

In 2025, an estimated 9 in 10 eligible 3 and 4-year-olds were registered for the working parent entitlement. Both the estimated percentage and number of 3 and 4-year-olds registered represented the series peaks, continuing the upward trend since the series started in 2018.

Families receiving additional support entitlement (FRAS) for eligible 2-year-olds

In 2025, the number and percentage of eligible 2-year-olds registered for the FRAS (previously disadvantaged) entitlement should be treated with caution when comparing with previous years. Whilst further analysis is needed, some children eligible for both the working parent and FRAS entitlement were registered for the former and not the latter. This is contrary to statutory guidance but the Department has since made it easier for local authorities to identify children eligible for both (see the section 'Families receiving additional support entitlement', sub section 'Changes between 2024 and 2025' for further information).

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About these statistics

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Data is collected from local authorities covering state-funded schools (including nurseries), via the spring [school census \(opens in a new tab\)](#) and from private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers (including childminders) via the [early years census \(opens in a new tab\)](#). In addition, general hospital schools data is collected via the [school-level annual school census \(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Children’s age for each reporting year is defined as how old they were on the preceding 31 December. For example, 4-year-olds for the 2025 reporting year were aged 4 on 31 December 2024.

The following table indicates when the series started for each entitlement. This corresponds with when figures were first collected or when comparable figures first became available.

Year	Entitlement type
2011	Universal: 3 and 4-year olds
2015	FRAS (with the full eligibility criteria): 2-year-olds (formerly known as the disadvantaged entitlement)
2018	Working parent: 3 and 4-year olds

Families receiving additional support entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds

Since 2015, eligible 2-year-olds whose families are receiving additional support (FRAS) (formerly known as the disadvantaged entitlement) are entitled to receive 570 hours of government-funded early years provision a year. This is taken as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year but it is also possible to take fewer hours over more weeks.

2-year-olds are eligible for the FRAS entitlement if their parents (or the sole parent in a lone parent household) are in receipt of certain income-related benefits or have no recourse to public funds. 2-year-olds are also eligible for non-economic reasons including if they have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan, receive disability living allowance, are looked after by a local authority, or have left care under an adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangements order.

The number of 2-year-olds eligible for the FRAS entitlement is estimated using the number of households with 2-year-olds that are in receipt of income-related benefits or have a child receiving disability living allowance but does not take into account children eligible for the other reasons listed above. Therefore, the true number of 2-year-olds eligible is under-estimated. In turn, the percentage of eligible 2-years registered for the FRAS entitlement is over-estimated. However, the size of this over-estimate is expected to be small given that 2-year-olds in households that claim universal credit make up the majority of eligible children.

Universal entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds

All 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to receive 570 hours of government-funded early years provision a year. This can be taken as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year but it is also possible to take fewer hours over more weeks.

The universal entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds aims to support child development and school readiness. Children (mainly 4-year-olds) in a state-funded reception class are considered to be registered for the universal entitlement (379,300 children or a third of all 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement); these children are not entitled to receive additional hours of early years provision as the universal (and working parent) entitlement is considered to be met through the reception class provision.

Working parent entitlement for eligible children aged 9 months to 4 years

Children aged 9 months to 4 years are eligible if their parents (or the sole parent in a lone parent household) work the equivalent of at least 16 hours a week at national minimum wage or living wage, but earn under £100,000 per year (adjusted net income). These children may be eligible, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria, until they start reception year or the start of the term after they turn 5.

Eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years

Since April 2024, 2-year-olds with eligible working parents and since September 2024, children aged 9 to 23 months with eligible working parents have been entitled to receive 570 hours of government-funded early years provision a year. This can be taken as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year but it is also possible to take fewer hours over more weeks.

Eligible 3 and 4-year olds

Since 2018 (specifically September 2017 onwards), 3 and 4-year-olds with eligible working parents have been entitled to an additional 570 hours, on top of already being entitled to 570 hours via the universal entitlement, taking their total entitlement to 1,140 hours a year. This can be taken as 30 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year though it is also possible to take fewer hours over more weeks. All 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the working parent entitlement are also included in the counts of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement.

The working parent entitlement for eligible 3 and 4-year-olds is commonly referred to as ‘30 hours free childcare’.

Estimated number of children eligible and estimated percentage of eligible children registered

The number of children eligible for the working parent entitlement is estimated from various sources including the Family Resources Survey (FRS), the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI), Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, the Schools Census, the Early Years Census and population estimates derived from ONS estimates and projections.

The estimated number of children eligible for the working parent entitlements should be treated with caution due to the reliability of the survey-based data underpinning the calculations, particularly for 2025, which DfE plans to revise in next year’s publication (when more timely data becomes available). In turn, the estimated percentages of eligible children registered for the working parent entitlements, which are included in this release for the first time, are suitable to assess trends over time but should be treated with caution. For more information, see the data quality section of the [methodology page](#).

Support for disadvantaged children

3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement (who have not yet entered reception), and from September 2024, children aged 9 months to 2 years who are registered for the working parent entitlement and 2-year-olds who are registered for the FRAS entitlement are eligible for [early years pupil premium \(EYPP\) \(opens in a new tab\)](#) funding if their parents are in receipt of certain income-related benefits, if they are looked after by a local authority, or if they have left care under an adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangements order.

When children join a state-funded reception class, they cease to be eligible for EYPP, so these statistics also identify children who are in reception and eligible for [free school meals \(opens in a new tab\)](#). Children are eligible for free school meals if they are in full-time education in a state-funded school and their parents are in receipt of certain income-related benefits or have no recourse to public funds.

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Universal entitlement

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The percentages of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement are derived from ONS population estimates (for the 2011 to 2023 rates in this release), ONS population projections (for the 2025 rates in this release) or a combination of both (2024 rates in this release).

Revised population estimates/projections, based on the latest ONS data, including from the 2021 Census, were used to calculate revised percentages from 2011 to 2024 in this release.

The impact of these revisions on the percentages at a national level has ranged from a fall of 1.3 percentage points in 2024 (from 94.9% to 93.6%) to a rise of 4.5 percentage points in 2021 (from 89.7% to 94.2%). Further information can be found within the methodology page.

In 2025, an estimated 93.1% of 3 and 4-year-olds were registered for the universal entitlement, down 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier and the lowest proportion in the series (started in 2011). Whilst it has been on a declining trend since the series peak of 97.2% in 2018, it has remained above 90% throughout the series.

Percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement, 2011 to 2025

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percentage	94.3	95.2	95.6	95.8	96.0	96.6	96.8	97.2	97.1	97.0	94.2
Annual change	z	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-2.8

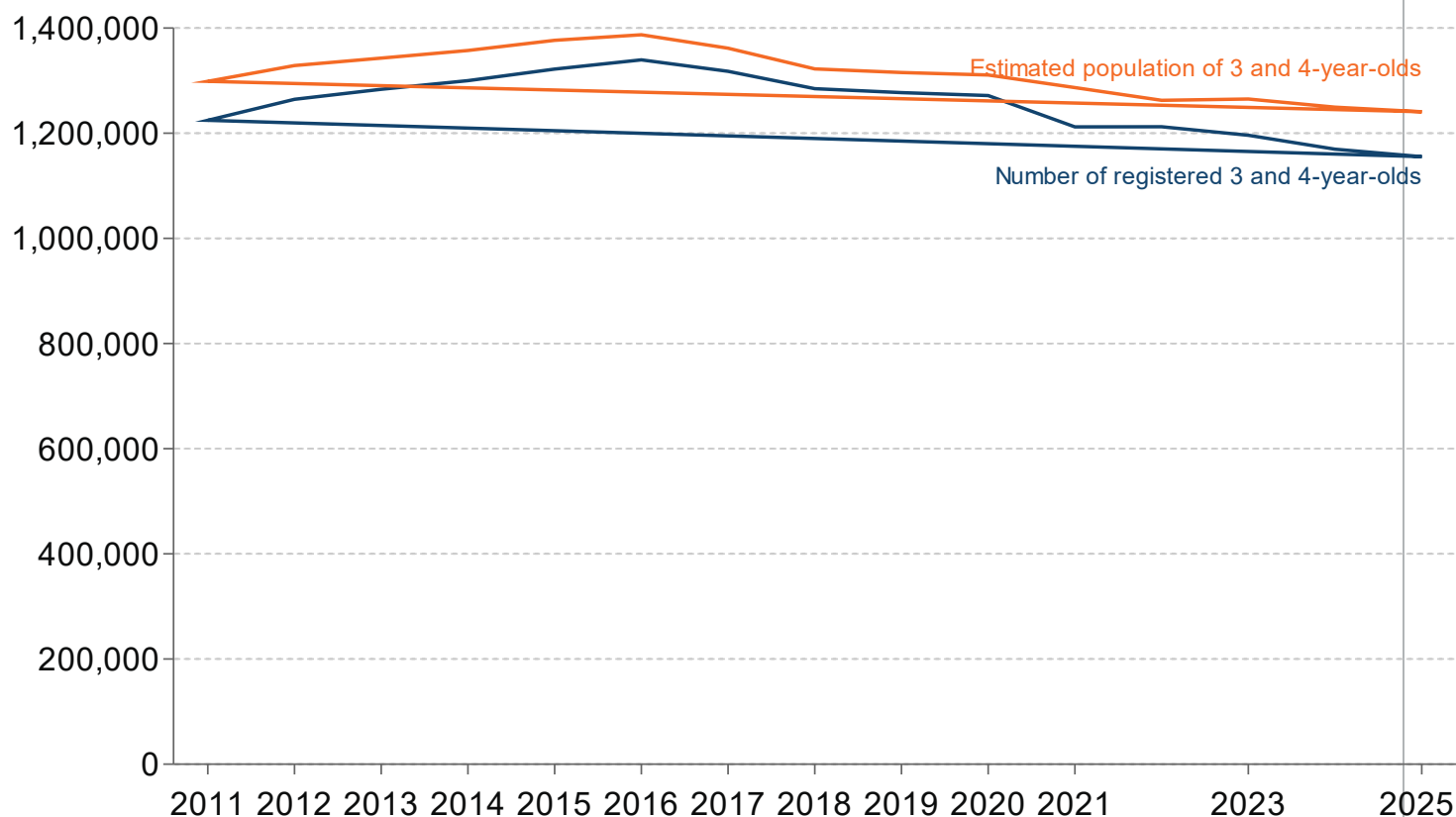
In 2025, the estimated population of all 3 and 4-year-olds fell to the lowest in the series (1.24 million). This continues the downward trend from the series peak in 2016 (1.39 million), following a [decline in births in recent years \(opens in a new tab\)](#). The number of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement also fell to the lowest in the series in 2025, again continuing the downward trend from the series peak of 1.34 million children in 2016. The latest figure of 1.16 million represents a fall

of 1.2% or 14,200 children from a year earlier.

Chart	<u>Table</u>
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► Export options

Number of 3 and 4 year-olds registered for the universal entitlement and 3 and 4-year-old population, 2011 to 2025



Footnotes

1. Data collected in 2021 (and to a lesser extent 2022) was affected by the impact of COVID-19 uncertainty on providers and parents. Further information is available on the methodology page.

Source: Early years census, school census, school-level annual school census, and ONS population estimates and projections.

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Working parent entitlement

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This release includes figures for the first time on eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years registered for the expanded working parent entitlement (expanded from April 2024 to include eligible 2-year-olds and expanded from September 2024 to include eligible children aged 9 to 23 months). For children aged 9 to 11 months, the effect of maternity/paternity leave has not been accounted for when estimating eligibility.

This release also includes figures for the first time on the percentages of eligible children registered for the working parent entitlement. While they are suitable for assessing trends over time, these percentages should be treated with caution due to the reliability of the survey-based data which they are based on, particularly for 2025, which DfE plans to revise in next year's publication (when more timely data becomes available). For further information, see the data quality section of the methodology page.

Eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years

2-year-olds eligible for both the families receiving additional support (FRAS) and the new expanded working entitlement should be recorded under FRAS according to statutory guidance. However, DfE analyses and feedback received from some local authorities during data collection suggests that a substantial proportion of 2-year-olds eligible for both have been recorded under the working parent entitlement instead (although this picture varies at local authority level). Therefore, the number of 2-year-olds (and the number of children aged 9 months to 2 years in total) registered for the working parent entitlement should be treated with caution as it includes some 2-year-olds who, according to statutory guidance, should have been recorded under the FRAS entitlement.

Just under half a million eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years were registered for the expanded working parent entitlement in 2025, with an estimated 7 in 10 eligible children registered overall.

This ranged from around 4 in 10 eligible children registered for those aged 9 to 11 months to around 8 in 10 eligible children registered for those aged 2 years.

For children aged 9 to 11 months, the effect of maternity/paternity leave has not been accounted for when estimating eligibility.

Number of children registered, estimated number of eligible children and estimated percentage of eligible children registered for the expanded working parent entitlement, 2025

Age range	Number of children registered	Estimated number of eligible children	Estimated % of eligible children registered
9 to 11 months	29,200	69,000	42
1 year	195,100	279,000	70
2 years	242,500	289,000	84
9 months to 2 years	466,700	637,000	73

Comparisons with management information

Since April 2024, DfE has been publishing [management information](#) on eligibility codes issued and validated in relation to the expanded entitlements for children of eligible working parents aged 9 months to 2 years.

In order to access a government-funded entitlement, parents and carers must apply for an eligibility code which is then validated by early years providers or local authorities. The management information provides the number of eligibility codes issued to parents and the number of codes validated by providers or local authorities at different points in the year.

The table below shows the number of codes issued and validated as captured in the management information during the 2024/25 spring term. The number of children registered for the entitlements, as captured in these statistics, is around 90% of the data published on the number of codes. Differences between these statistics and the management information are to be expected as:

- not all children with a validated code will actually attend a setting and therefore be registered for the new expanded working parent entitlement.
- management information is based on counts from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025, covering the entire duration of the 2024/25 spring term whereas these statistics relate to children registered in the third week in January, so are a snapshot within the spring 2024/25 term.
- In certain circumstances it is possible for a single child to be duplicated within the management information system.

Number of codes issued and validated in the 2024/25 spring term for the expanded working parent entitlement

Age range	Number of codes issued 2024/25 Spring term	Number of codes validated 2024/25 Spring term
9 to 11 months	36,171	32,926
1 year	226,493	208,424
2 years	280,880	264,301

Eligible 3 and 4-year-olds

In 2025, an estimated 91% of eligible 3 and 4-year-olds, or 379,000 children, were registered for the working parent entitlement, up 5 percentage points and 17,200 children (or 5%) respectively from a year earlier.

The latest figures represent the series peaks, continuing the upward trend since the series started in 2018, up from around 7 in 10 eligible children registered to around 9 in 10 eligible children registered.

Whilst the estimated population of 3 and 4-years-old has decreased since 2018, the estimated number of 3 and 4-year-olds eligible for the working parent entitlement has been more stable in comparison over the same period.

Estimated percentage of eligible 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the working parent entitlement, 2018 to 2025

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Percentage	73	77	79	76	82	81	86	91
Annual change (p.p.)	z	4	2	-3	6	-1	5	5

Chart

Table

► Export options

Number of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the working parent entitlement, estimated number of 3 and 4-year-olds eligible for the working parent entitlement and estimated population of 3 and 4-year olds, 2018 to 2025

	Working parents		
	3 and 4-year-olds		
	Number of registered children	Estimated number of eligible children	Estimated number of all children
2018	296,924	405,000	1,322,234
2019	328,127	425,000	1,315,386
2020	345,704	440,000	1,310,667
2021	328,662	432,000	1,286,698
2022	348,126	424,000	1,262,496
2023	362,982	450,000	1,264,959
2024	361,790	419,000	1,249,468
2025	379,029	418,000	1,240,760

[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. Data collected in 2021 (and to a lesser extent 2022) was affected by the impact of COVID-19 uncertainty on providers and parents. Further information is available on the methodology page.

Source: Early years census, school census, and ONS population estimates and projections.

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Families receiving additional support entitlement

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There has been a downward trend since the series started in 2015 (also representing the series peak) in the estimated number of 2-year-olds eligible for the families receiving additional support (FRAS) entitlement (269,800 children). This is due to [declining births in recent years \(opens in a new tab\)](#) and unchanged maximum earnings thresholds for both legacy (through child tax credits) and universal credit eligibility criteria, while average incomes have increased (see Figure 1 in ONS release [‘Employee earnings in the UK: 2023 \(opens in a new tab\)’](#)). There was a change in policy and data that is likely to have contributed to the apparent increase in 2019: following the introduction of the maximum earnings threshold criteria for universal credit (since April 2018), this was the first year children eligible via universal credit were included in the eligible population data, though the numbers of children registered for the FRAS entitlement via universal credit were likely small previously, with [universal credit being rolled out nationwide since late 2018 \(opens in a new tab\)](#).

The fall in 2-year-olds eligible for the FRAS entitlement has contributed to the number of 2-year-olds registered for the FRAS entitlement falling from the series peak of 166,900 children in 2016, to 115,900 in 2024.

Between 2019 and 2024, the number of 2-year-olds eligible for FRAS decreased by 29%, which is greater than the 5% fall in the overall 2-year-old population, indicating that declines in births only partially explain the fall. In particular, over the period, the fall in 167,300 children eligible via legacy benefits was not offset by the rise of 103,000 children eligible via universal credit. In addition, as the 29% fall is greater than the 22% fall in eligible children registered, the percentage of eligible 2-year-olds registered increased by 7 percentage points over the period to 75% in 2024, the highest in the series.

Chart

Table

► Export options

Number of 2 year-olds registered for the FRAS entitlement, estimated number of 2-year-olds eligible for the FRAS entitlement, and estimated population of 2-year olds, 2015 to 2025

	Families receiving additional support				
	2-year-olds				
	Number of registered children	Estimated number of eligible children	Estimated number of eligible children: legacy benefit	Estimated number of eligible children: universal credit	Estimated number of all children
2015	157,036	269,777	269,777	0	695,862
2016	166,924	246,085	246,085	0	665,278
2017	163,249	230,892	230,892	0	660,229
2018	154,962	215,879	215,879	0	660,161
2019	148,751	219,316	186,449	32,867	656,280
2020	143,439	207,392	120,252	87,140	637,384
2021	124,543	201,562	64,583	136,979	618,385
2022	135,410	188,318	40,020	148,298	615,360
2023	124,211	167,976	26,034	141,942	605,404
2024	115,852	154,957	19,107	135,850	620,896
2025	95,031	145,824	5,547	140,277	595,225

[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. Data collected in 2021 (and to a lesser extent 2022) was affected by the impact of COVID-19 uncertainty on providers and parents. Further information is available on the methodology page.

Source: Early years census, school census, school-level annual school census, Department for Work and Pensions data, and ONS population estimates and projections.

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Estimated percentage of eligible 2 year-olds registered for the FRAS entitlement, 2015 to 2025

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Percentage	58.2	67.8	70.7	71.8	67.8	69.2	61.8	71.9	73.9	74.8	65.2
Annual change (p.p.)	z	10	2.9	1.1	-4.0	1.3	-7.4	10.1	2.0	0.8	-9.6

Changes between 2024 and 2025

Between 2024 and 2025, the 18% fall in the number of eligible 2-year-olds registered for FRAS was greater than the 6% fall in the number of 2-year-olds eligible for FRAS.

2-year-olds eligible for both FRAS and the new expanded working parent entitlement should be recorded under FRAS as per statutory guidance. However, DfE analyses and feedback received from some local authorities during data collection suggests that a substantial proportion of 2-year-olds eligible for both have been recorded under the working parent entitlement instead (although this picture varies at local authority level). Therefore, this has likely contributed to the fall nationally in 2025 in the number and percentage of eligible 2-year-olds registered, which both fell to 95,000 children and 65% respectively. Whilst further analysis is needed, the impact of the new working parent entitlement on the recording of the FRAS entitlement should be considered when interpreting the fall in these figures, and therefore the 2025 figures should be treated with caution.

DfE expects the recording of 2-year-olds registered for the FRAS and the working parent entitlements to improve in future years. From 1 April 2025, DfE has shared data with local authorities that enables them to identify households with 2-year-olds that are likely to be eligible for both entitlements so that they can ensure these children are recorded under the correct funding stream.

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Children registered by early years pupil premium / free school meals, SEN and ethnicity

Early years pupil premium / free school meals

In 2025:

- 7,500 (2%) children aged 9 months to 2 years registered for the working parent entitlement were in receipt of the early years pupil premium (EYPP).
- Just under half of 2-year-olds registered for the families receiving additional support (FRAS) entitlement were in receipt of the EYPP.
- Around 1 in 7 children in nursery registered for the universal entitlement were in receipt of EYPP.
- Around 1 in 6 children in reception were in receipt of free school meals.

Number and percentage of children registered for entitlements with early years pupil premium and free school meals, by entitlement type, 2025

Type	Working parent: eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years		FRAS: eligible 2-year olds		Universal: 3 and 4-year-olds reception		Universal: 3 and 4-year-olds nursery	
Early years pupil premium	7,500	1.6%	45,400	47.8%	z	z	117,200	15.1%
Free school meals	z	z	z	z	66,000	17.4%	z	z

Special educational needs (SEN)

The percentage of children with SEN ranged from 2% for those registered for the working parent entitlement to 9% for those registered for the universal entitlement.

Percentage of children with SEN by entitlement type, 2025

SEN	Universal: 3 and 4-year-olds	Working parent: eligible children aged 9 months to 4 years	FRAS: eligible 2-year-olds
No SEN	91.1	97.8	94.9

Total SEN	8.9	2.2	5.1
SEN support	7.3	2.0	4.6
EHCP	1.6	0.3	0.5

Ethnicity

Where ethnicity was known, 17% of children registered for the working parent entitlement were from an ethnic minority (excluding White minorities) background, lower than the 30% of children registered for the universal entitlement and the 32% of children registered for the FRAS entitlement.

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Children registered by provider type and Ofsted inspection

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Provider type

Excluding children (mainly 4-year-olds) attending reception in state-funded schools, across all entitlement types, at least 2 in every 3 children (65%) were registered at private, voluntary, and independent providers.

Ofsted inspection

[From September 2024 \(opens in a new tab\)](#), graded inspections of state-funded schools have no longer included an overall effectiveness grade. Therefore, this section is based on PVIs only.

Of those children registered at a PVI provider with a matched Ofsted inspection judgement, 98% of children attended early years provision judged good or outstanding by Ofsted across all entitlement types.

Number and percentage of children registered for entitlements in PVIs by provider's Ofsted

inspection judgement, 2025

Ofsted judgement	Universal		Working parent		FRAS	
Total matched	415,500	100.0%	642,800	100.0%	64,700	100.0%
Outstanding	73,200	17.6%	112,600	17.5%	7,900	12.2%
Good	333,700	80.3%	518,700	80.7%	55,700	86.1%
Requires improvement	7,100	1.7%	9,500	1.5%	800	1.3%
Inadequate	1,500	0.4%	2,000	0.3%	300	0.4%

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Providers delivering entitlements

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The figures in this section are based on providers delivering funded entitlements where at least one child was registered for all their entitlement or any proportion of their entitlement if it was split across multiple providers. For more information see the methodology page.

In 2025, there were 55,000 providers delivering the entitlements, the first increase in five years, and the biggest increase since data became available in 2018.

Number of providers delivering entitlements, 2018 to 2025

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	53,600	53,800	53,900	52,400	51,300	49,900	49,200	55,000
Annual change	x	300	100	-1,500	-1,100	-1,400	-700	5,800
Annual % change	x	0.5%	0.2%	-2.8%	-2.1%	-2.8%	-1.4%	11.8%

This was driven by an increase in the number of providers delivering the working parent entitlement (+26%) and by the number of childminders delivering any entitlement (+43%). Specifically, the number of childminders delivering the working parent entitlement increased by 7,700 or 73% between 2024 and 2025.

Number of providers delivering entitlements by entitlement type, 2024 and 2025

Entitlement type	2024	2025	Annual change	
Universal	46,300	47,300	1,000	2.1%
Working parent	35,600	44,800	9,200	26.0%
FRAS	20,600	19,000	-1,600	-7.8%

Number of providers delivering entitlements by provider type, 2024 and 2025

Provider type	2024	2025	Annual change	
State-funded schools	16,800	16,800	-30	-0.1%
Private and voluntary providers	17,500	17,800	280	1.6%
Independent schools	800	800	-20	-2.7%
Local authority day nurseries	300	300	0	0.4%
State funded governor run	800	800	20	2.7%
Childminders	12,900	18,500	5,600	43.3%
Other PVIs	60	20	-30	-60.7%

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Early years staff delivering entitlements

 Hide

Staff qualifications data relates to private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) providers only.

Accredited graduate status for early years staff represents early years professional status, early years teacher status, or qualified teacher status.

In 2025, the number of staff delivering the entitlements in PVIs increased for the fourth consecutive year, likely driven by the expanded entitlements, and was the biggest increase since data became available in 2018.

Number of early years staff delivering entitlements at PVIs, 2018 to 2025

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	254,400	261,900	256,400	243,700	249,300	250,700	254,300	272,500
Annual change	x	7,600	-5,500	-12,700	5,600	1,400	3,600	18,200
Annual % change	x	3.0%	-2.1%	-4.9%	2.3%	0.6%	1.4%	7.2%

In 2025, the number of staff delivering the entitlements in PVIs increased across all (highest) qualification levels; those with level 3 qualifications had the largest numeric rise and those with level 2 qualifications had the largest percentage rise.

Number of early years staff delivering entitlements at PVIs, by highest qualification level, 2024 and 2025

Highest qualification level	2024	2025	Annual change	
Accredited graduate status	20,900	22,500	1,600	7.7%
Full and relevant level 3	149,100	158,200	9,100	6.1%
Full and relevant level 2	27,500	31,300	3,800	13.8%

In 2025, the number of staff delivering the entitlements in PVIs increased across all provider types, apart from in independent schools. Staff in private and voluntary providers had the numeric largest rise, whilst childminders had the largest percentage rise.

Number of early years staff delivering entitlements at PVIs, by provider type, 2024 and 2025

Provider type	2024	2025	Annual change	
Private and voluntary providers	218,000	229,200	11,200	5.1%
Local authority day nurseries	3,000	3,100	100	3.4%
State-funded governor-run	4,300	4,600	300	7.0%
Independent schools	9,400	9,300	-100	-1.2%
Childminders	19,100	26,100	7,100	37.1%
Other	500	200	-300	-64.4%

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Contact us

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