



# Early Years Service

## Information, Advice & Business Network (IABN)

Spring Term 2026

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# Housekeeping



Schedule of the session



Toilets, Fire exits, breaks, refreshments



Mobiles on silent



Any questions?

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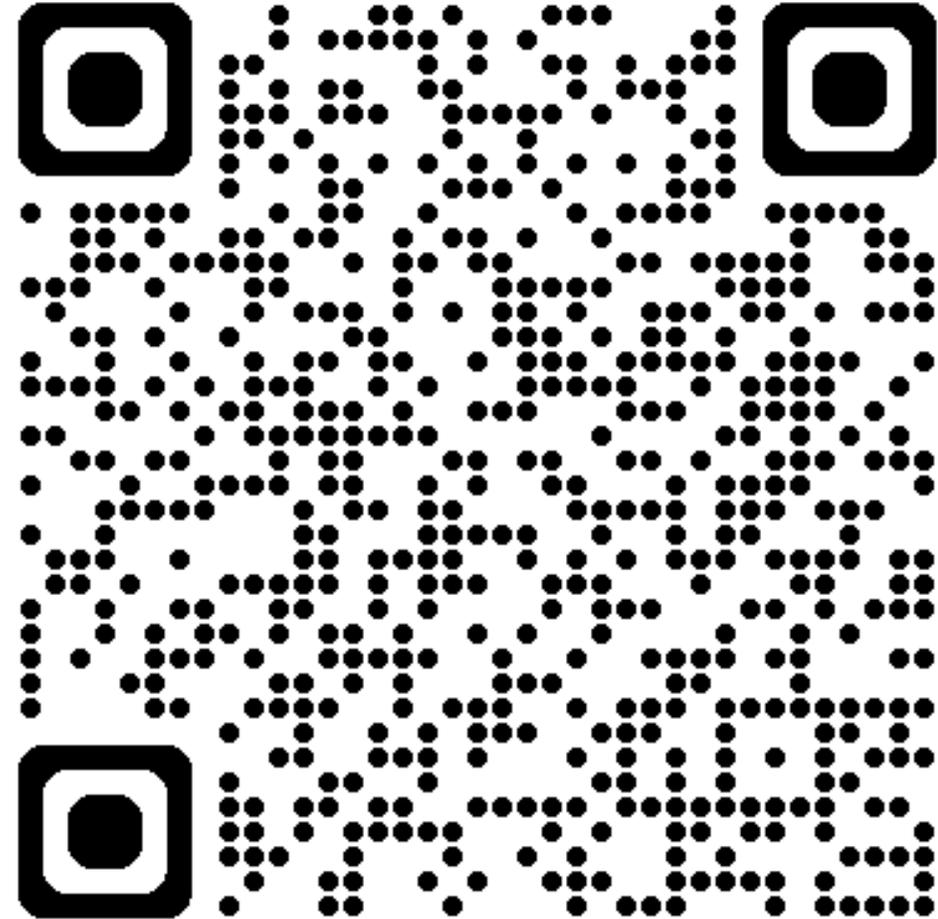
# Agenda

- Safeguarding updates
  - OOS Conference
  - 2yo Early Learning Funding
  - Local Area SEND Inspection
  - Early Years and Childcare Careers
  - Apprenticeship week
  - Funding Entitlement
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# Safeguarding Updates

Date



<https://earlyyearsweb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/safeguarding-and-welfare/general-guidance-and-online-safety/>

# NEW Safer Recruitment Training

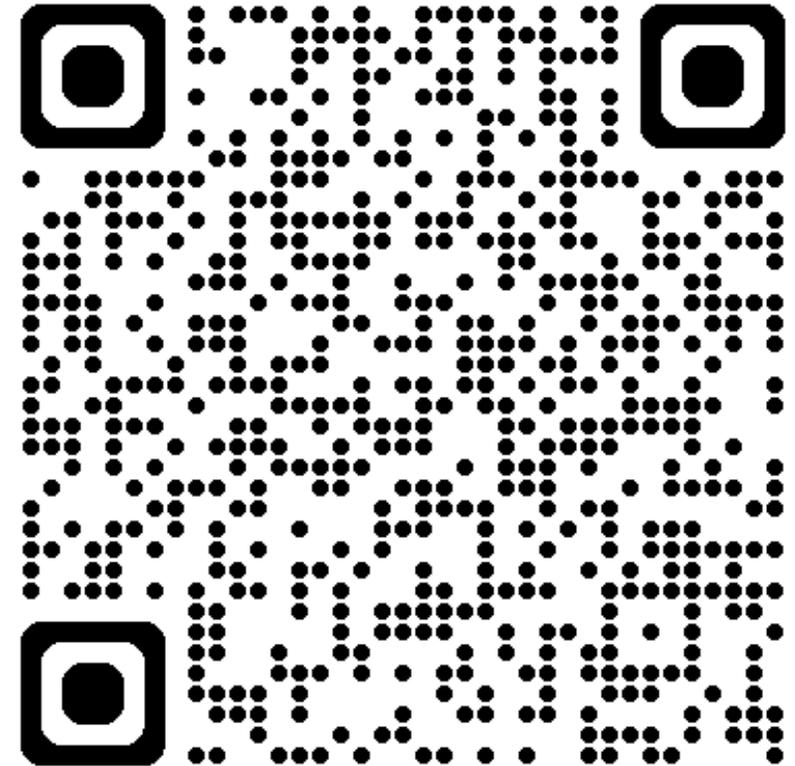
Date: 12 March 2026

Time: 6pm-9pm

Where: Online via Teams

If you have recruitment responsibilities,  
book your place here

<https://eycpd.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/book/add/p/61>



# Changes to Safeguarding Guidance for Providers (After-school clubs, Community activities and Tuition)

## Updated Guidance for Self-Employed Providers

Following regulatory changes in 2026, individuals who are self-employed and undertaking regulated activity, can now apply for an Enhanced with Barred Lists DBS check on their own behalf.

However, where there is a contracting organisation, for example, a school, local authority or agency, or an appropriate umbrella organisation, the individual can still ask the organisation to make suitability decision on them, as they do now. To support that suitability decision, the organisation can submit the check application on the individual's behalf.

## Updated Information for Volunteers

For volunteers, the type of check will depend on the activity and setting they're volunteering in.

If their role is eligible for a Standard, Enhanced, or Enhanced with Barred List check, the checks on your behalf guidance for volunteers explain how to apply for the appropriate check.

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Scan the QR code



<https://eycpd.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/book/add/p/153>

*Out of School Conference*

*Thrive & Play*

*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026*

*Crowne Plaza Marlow*



**Supporting Bucks Providers to Grow, Include, and Inspire**

Join us for an inspiring day designed exclusively for **Out-of-School and HAF settings**. This is your opportunity to connect with peers, gain practical insights, and explore innovative strategies to strengthen your provision.

**Guest speakers and presenters include**

- ❖ James Hemsall (Coram Hemsall)
- ❖ Ben Kingston-Hughes (Inspired Children)
- ❖ Tanya Petherick (BeMore)
- ❖ Rebekah Jackson Reece (Out of School Alliance)
- ❖ Anne Speke (National Association of SEN)

Once your delegate place is confirmed, you may pre-book two workshops from the four expert-led options below. Each delegate must select one morning and one afternoon workshop.

**£35**

*delegate price  
Lunch incl*

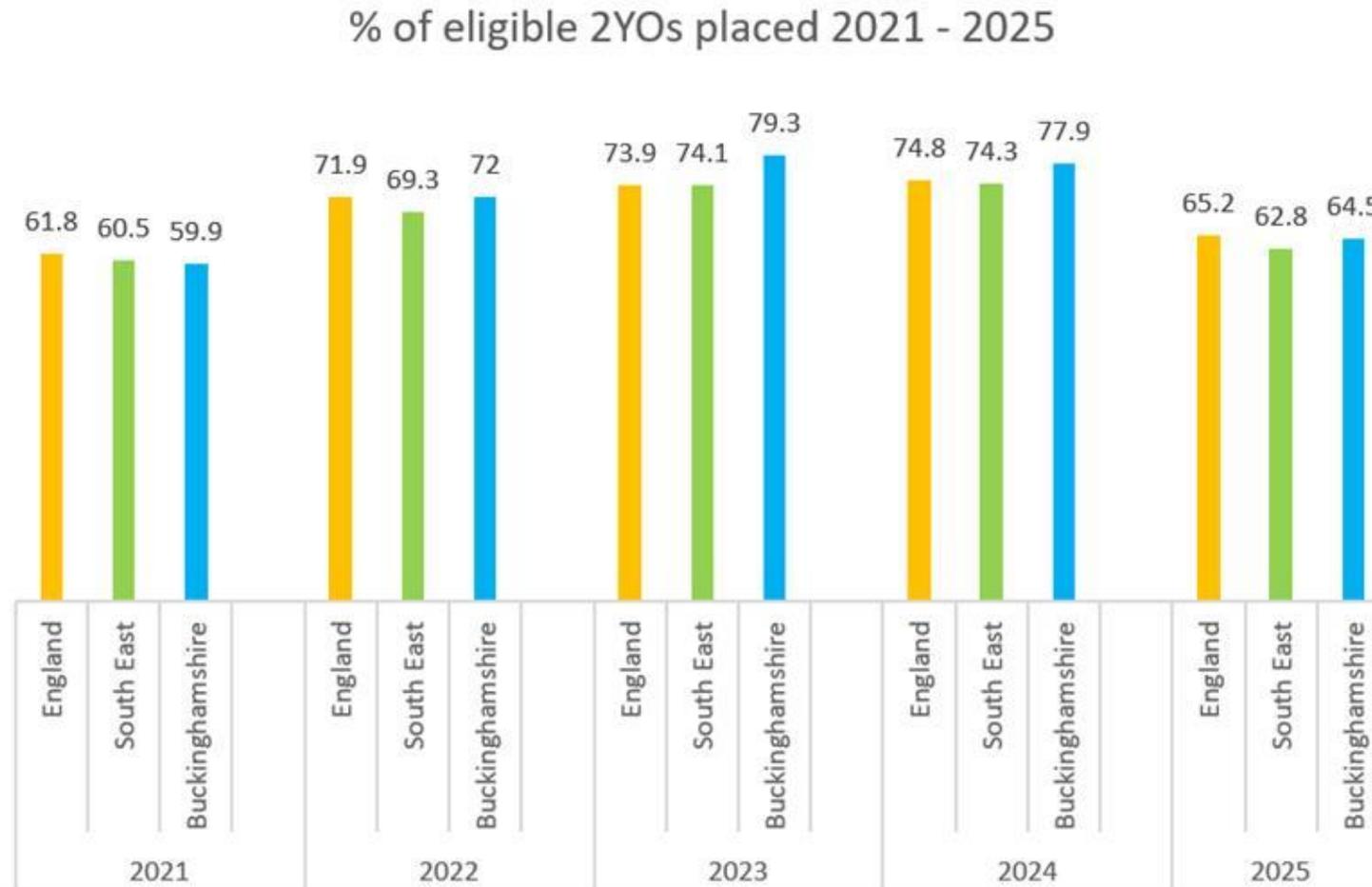
CLICK [HERE](#) TO  
BOOK  
CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOPS



# 2yr Early Learning Funding

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# 2YO take up data



DfE Published figures are based on **census data** from the previous January. The data for 2025 was received 16 July 2025.

## **DfE-Maximising take up of the 15 hours entitlements for families receiving additional forms of support (FRAS)**

- The 2yr FRAS entitlement has been renamed and will now be referred to as ***Early Learning for 2-year-olds***
  - Termly scorecards are being reintroduced this term & a minimum expectation & stretching goal will be communicated to each LA along with an Autumn 2025 scorecard
-



**\*2-year-old early learning funding for those receiving additional forms of government support**



**£ 34,473.60**

of unclaimed funding for Autumn term 2025



This means a nursery, pre-school or childminder who had not claimed for one child in a 2yr funded place\* had missed out on **£1,814.40** for the Autumn term 2025 and **£4,924.80** for the year.

# 2-Year-Old Funding Schemes – Call to action

## Dual Eligibility:

If parents qualify for **both funding schemes**, they **must** apply for **both** and will receive **two separate codes**.



30 hours  
Funding

=

15 hours  
early learning  
funding

+

15 hours  
working parent  
funding

e.g. HB5NQ6

e.g. 50123456789



## What you need to do now:

- Check eligibility for 2-year-old early learning funding
- Use the PPA to complete the application form

**Dual applications protect your setting's funding stability**



# SEND Update

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# Local Area SEND Inspection – November 2025

## Inspection Outcomes

There are three possible outcomes:



### Positive

- Arrangements typically lead to good experiences and outcomes; improvements being addressed.
- Reinspection ~5 years

### Inconsistent

- Mixed, variable quality; inconsistent experiences and outcomes.
- Reinspection ~3 years

### Significant Concerns

- Significant concerns trigger higher scrutiny and improvement action

**The Buckinghamshire Local Area Partnership** received the middle outcome in the three-tier outcome system. Showing improvement from the last inspection.

The inspection acknowledges genuine progress across the partnership and validates the direction of travel of our existing SEND Improvement Programme. Recent improvements are beginning to have a positive impact on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND

# What the Buckinghamshire Local Area Partnership is doing that is Effective

## Strong Foundations and Areas of Real Progress

Inspectors recognised a range of areas where meaningful progress has been achieved across education, health and care. These include:

### **Stronger Leadership and Governance:**

A refreshed SEND Strategy and accountable delivery plans demonstrate improved oversight and focus.

### **Higher-Quality EHC Plans:**

Inspectors found that more recently issued plans show strengthened quality.

### **Support for Disabled Children:**

Specialist provisions continue to provide strong, well-regarded support.

### **Early Years Improvements:**

Early identification, communication and access to health services have strengthened.

### **Therapies Transformation:**

Significant work has taken place to improve accessibility and consistency in therapy services.

### **High Support Needs and Dynamic Support:**

Children and young people with the most complex needs benefit from well-coordinated wrap-around support.

### **Preparing for Adulthood:**

Improved joint working with further education and a growing number of supported internships are supporting young people more effectively into adulthood.

These strengths show that the foundations for sustained improvement are firmly in place.

# Areas for Development

Inspectors concluded that the Partnership's strategic priorities are the right ones, but improvement must happen at greater pace, with improved communication and more robust quality assurance. The report confirms that the work already underway is moving the system in the right direction and sets a clear roadmap for the next phase of transformation.

Inspectors also highlighted several areas where change must continue at greater pace and consistency. These include:

## **EHCP Timeliness and Variability:**

Too many families are waiting too long for assessments, and the quality of plans remains inconsistent.

## **Annual Reviews:**

Processes and contributions vary in quality and timeliness.

## **Long Waiting Times:**

Delays remain in neurodevelopmental pathways (including a needs-led approach), school-based emotional wellbeing support and enuresis.

## **Communication with Families:**

Processes can be confusing, and communication is not always reliable or consistent.

## **Coproduction:**

More meaningful, systematic involvement of children, young people and parents is required. Building on good practice already noted with our 'Shout out for SEND' young people.

## **SENDIASS Capacity:**

Pressures on the service were noted, alongside the need for clarity on funding.

## **Transitions:**

Planning for key points of transition often begins too late.

## **Short Breaks and Community Inclusion:**

Access remains challenging for some families.

These findings align with the issues already identified locally and reaffirm the areas where focused improvement is most needed.

# Thank You! – EY Practitioner feedback was featured in the report

“Many children and young people with SEND and their families build positive relationships with professionals who have a secure understanding of their current experiences.”

“Recent improvements are beginning to have a positive impact on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND”

“Early years settings are positive about the improvements that have been made to partnership communication. This includes the early years notification system, single points of access into health services and the more effective portal for EHC needs assessment requests. Practitioners have found forums useful to bring the voice of children to the assessment meetings and reduce further requests for information. Settings use the helpful resources, support and advice available, as well as their links with health and social care practitioners, to identify children’s needs effectively”

This inspection has provided the Local Area Partnership with a clear and balanced assessment of current strengths, alongside the improvements still required to ensure consistently positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.



IT'S NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK #NAW2026

# Early Years and Childcare Careers



# Early Years and Childcare Careers

The Early Years Service is responding proactively to the national and local challenges in recruiting and retaining a skilled early years workforce.

With the expansion of early education and childcare entitlements, the sector is projected to require up to 50,000 additional staff nationally, underscoring the urgency for strategic local action.



UK Government

**NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK 2026**

This week we are celebrating National Apprenticeship week, have you seen us trending on social media.

Please help by sharing any EYS careers posts.



## Activity that has been taking place.....

- Updated EYS website & vacancy service
- Partnership working
- Outreach events – Secondary Schools, Job Centres, Careers Hubs, Community Events
- Social media presence
- New marketing materials
- Apprentice and Childminder Week Activities
- Attendance confirmed at upcoming;
  - Bucks Skills Show 2026
  - Buckinghamshire Youth Summit



# How Can You Help?

- Share staff stories, quotes and “day in the life” posts on social media
- Promote vacancies using simple, positive language and clear application info
- Support apprenticeships and training routes (including offering placements)
- Understand how students and apprentices can be counted in qualified ratios to support you staffing need **(EYFS 3.56 & footnote 50)**
- Host open days, taster sessions or short shadowing opportunities
- Attend local school/college career events to inspire young people
- Display and share our campaign materials (posters, flyers, graphics)
- Champion the value and impact of Early Years roles in community spaces
- Offer work experience opportunities for students, linking with local schools
- Welcome career changers by highlighting flexible routes and on-the-job training
- Celebrate new starters and success stories to help attract more interest

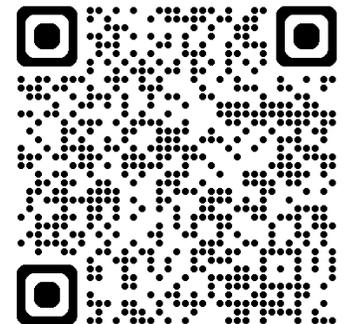




## Save the date 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May!

Coram Pacey plan to launch their 'Magic of Childminding' report, which will explore the positive impact of childminders on children, families and local authorities and the wider sector.

Events, webinars and competitions will be run across the week. Keep an eye on sector updates for further information as the event comes closer.





**£25.00 per place**



**Scan the QR Code to book**

<https://eycpd.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/book/add/p/150>

*An event for Childminders*

*Voices That Matter: Supporting Our  
Youngest Learners*

*Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 9:30 - 12:00*

*Venue-The Mezz, Walton Street*

*Offices HP20 1UA*



**Join us for an inspiring morning  
designed especially for childminders.**

**Voices That Matter empowers you to support vulnerable children,  
strengthen early writing, and create rich language opportunities for  
learners with EAL. Leave feeling motivated, confident, and ready to  
champion every child's EYFS journey.**



# Working in partnership with Buckinghamshire's nurseries and preschools



Buckinghamshire  
Adult Learning

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# Aim of Today

- To give an overview of Buckinghamshire Adult Learning
- What is an apprenticeship
- How your setting can maximise apprenticeships
- How your setting can benefit from apprenticeship funding



Buckinghamshire  
Adult Learning



Apprenticeships

**NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK #NAW2026**

# Buckinghamshire Adult Learning

## Who are we?

Part of Buckinghamshire Council  
we are their training provider for  
Apprenticeships & Work Based  
Learning

Work with many businesses across  
Buckinghamshire

Support nurseries, preschools,  
primary and secondary schools



Buckinghamshire  
Adult Learning

# What are apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs in a business environment, allowing the individual to work, earn a salary and gain valuable qualifications and experience.

Apprentices stay in the workplace, and their time is split 80/20 working/ training.

Apprenticeships offer choice, opportunity, qualifications, support and a head start into a future career.

Apprenticeships are for all ages with an opportunity to study an apprenticeship up to Degree level

# Apprenticeship Options



Employ a new member of staff



Or



Upskill an existing member of the team

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# How apprenticeships help your setting

1. Strengthen staffing & reduce recruitment pressure

2. Cost effective way to train

3. Improve quality of childcare

4. Increase staff retention

5. Support Ofsted requirements

6. Tailored training to fit your settings needs

7. Apprentices build relationships with families locally which is good for business

8. Fresh energy and new ideas

9. Promotes a diverse workforce

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# Employers' National Insurance and Apprenticeships

- If the member of staff is under 25 years old, the government will pay the employers' national insurance (NI) for the duration of the apprenticeship.
- If the apprentice is under 18 or has an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), the employer receives £1000.

**What does this look like in cost saving:**



<b>Salary</b>	<b>National Insurance saving per year</b>
£20,000	£3,000
£25,000	£3,750
£28,000	£4,200

# How we support you through the process

- Align the most appropriate apprenticeship standard for the role
- Support with accessing government funding/levy via SchoolsWeb/Digital account/levy transfer
- Recruitment- adapt job description into apprenticeship job description
- Advertise your opportunity on Find An Apprenticeship & promote across our social media platforms
- Filter CV's & telephone interviews
- Train and support your apprentice throughout their apprenticeship journey with industry experienced mentors and a training provider committed to success for the setting, the children and the employee



# Funding Options



Bucks Maintained Nurseries can apply through Schoolsweb



Private, Voluntary and Independent settings can apply through their digital account



Levi transfer through Buckinghamshire Council may be available

## Questions

Book a call with us to talk through options for your setting

- Sabrina Tebb
- 01296 585309
- [Sabrina.Tebb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sabrina.Tebb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
  
- [Mary Cloake](#)
- [01296 382191](tel:01296382191)
- [Mary.Cloake@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Cloake@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



# Break





# Funding Entitlement

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# DfE Requirements from January 2026

Provider websites or BFIS records must clearly state the hours per day when parents can access just their funded entitlement hours (not applicable to childminders)

Websites or BFIS records must clearly show any voluntary charges relating to the funded hours, broken down into:

- Meals and Snacks
- Consumables
- Additional activities
- Private hours
- Invoices need to be clear and transparent and itemised as per the above – applicable to all providers

**It is a statutory duty for all LAs to ensure providers are compliant**

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# Early Years Census – Termly Collection

The Early Years Census will move from an annual to a termly collection from Summer 2026, as required by the DfE

## Census Dates

- Summer 2026 – W/C 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Autumn 2026 – W/C 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026
- Spring 2027 – W/C 18<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Buckinghamshire Council's EY Funding will now be calculated based on children's funded hours recorded during these census weeks

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# Early Years Census – Termly Collection

## Funding Claims

- No change to the way you claim Early Years funding
- Please submit adjustments promptly, especially those relating to the census count weeks

## Census Form Changes

- A reduced Early Years Census form will be required each term
    - It will be pre-populated with your answers from the previous term
    - Except questions relating to the number of children attending
    - Staff-related question will only be collected in the Spring Census
-

# Early Years Funding 2026-27

- DfE allocate funding to the Local Authority by Early Years entitlement:
    - 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 2 years old
    - 30 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children 2 years old
    - 15 hours entitlement of Early Learning for 2-year-olds
    - Universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3- and 4-year-olds
    - Additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds
  - The pass-through rate (the minimum amount of funding a LA must pass through to providers) is 97% of the total allocation (previously 96%)
  - Separate budget for EYPP (£1.15 per hour) and DAF (£975 annual payment per child)
  - Funding rates for 2026-27 agreed at the Early Years Forum on 12th January 2026 and ratified at Schools Forum on 13th January 2026
-

# Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF)

- Funding is allocated by the DfE by each funding stream
  - The amount to pass through to providers consists of:
    - **Base funding rate** – the minimum amount a provider will receive per hour for a funded child
    - **Deprivation rate** – based on the child's home postcode
    - **Quality supplement** – Level 5, 6 (or higher including Early Years Professional Status, Early Years Teacher Status & Qualified Teacher Status) and/or SENCO Level 3
    - **Inclusion Fund (SENIF)**
    - **Contingency** – to support providers with unforeseen costs and sustainability
-

# 3 and 4 year old funding – Universal and Extended

From 1st April 2026

- Base funding rate £6.49 (Currently £5.97 8.7% increase)
  - Average deprivation rate £0.08
  - Quality supplement £0.05
  - Inclusion Fund (SENIF) £500,000
  - Contingency Fund £150,000
-

# Early Learning Funding for Two Year Olds

## From 1st April 2026

- Base funding rate                    £9.03 (Currently £8.64 4.5% increase)
  - Average deprivation rate    £0.08
  - Quality supplement                £0.01
  - Inclusion Fund (SENIF)            £20,000
  - Contingency Fund                    £5,000
-

# Two Year Old Funding for eligible working parents

From 1st April 2026

- Base funding rate £9.03 (Currently £8.64 4.5% increase)
  - Average deprivation rate £0.08
  - Quality supplement £0.01
  - Inclusion Fund (SENIF) £150,000
  - Contingency Fund £35,000
-

# 9 months to Two Year Old Funding for eligible working parents

From 1st April 2026

- Base funding rate                      £12.42 (Currently £11.86 4.7% increase)
  - Average deprivation rate              £0.08
  - Quality supplement                    £0.01
  - Inclusion Fund (SENIF)                £30,000
  - Contingency Fund                      £60,000
-

# Quality Supplement

## Criteria

Must have at least one staff member who works directly with Early Years children who holds one of the following

- Level 5 Early Years Qualification
- Level 6 Early Years Qualification
- Early Years Professional Status
- Early Years Teacher Status
- Qualified Teacher Status
- Level 7 Early Years Qualification
- Level 3 award for SENCOs in Early Years

Only qualifications that are full and relevant will count

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# Quality Supplement

## Staff Portal

To see which providers qualify for the quality supplement, we will be using the information recorded on the Staff Portal

- Ensure your staff information is up to date by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026
  - We have removed some mandatory fields on the staff portal
    - Address is now just a postcode
    - Date of Birth is just the year
    - Neither are mandatory
  - No changes to the funding rate after 23<sup>rd</sup> February
  - Contact [eydata@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:eydata@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
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# Statistical Neighbours Overall Funding Rates

Dedicated schools grant: Indicative 2026 to 2027 Early years block allocations	Hourly rate for 3-and 4- year-old entitlements (£ / hr)	Hourly rate for 2- year-old entitlement (£ / hr)	Hourly rate for under 2s entitlement (£ / hr)
Trafford	£ 6.20	£ 8.45	£ 11.44
Central Bedfordshire	£ 6.27	£ 8.52	£ 11.57
Oxfordshire	£ 6.43	£ 8.67	£ 11.74
Cambridgeshire	£ 6.50	£ 8.69	£ 11.79
Hampshire	£ 6.56	£ 8.73	£ 11.81
Hertfordshire	£ 6.72	£ 9.31	£ 12.63
West Berkshire	£ 6.95	£ 9.35	£ 12.74
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>£ 6.93</b>	<b>£ 9.47</b>	<b>£ 12.93</b>
Windsor and Maidenhead	£ 7.14	£ 9.68	£ 13.16
Bracknell Forest	£ 7.20	£10.06	£ 13.59

## **Recall of specific batches of infant formula**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is asking parents, early years settings and other caregivers to check their infant formula against specific batches of Aptamil and Cow & Gate products listed in the Product Recall Information Notice published on Friday 6 February 2026.

Danone's recall has been issued due to potential cereulide contamination, which can cause illness including vomiting and stomach cramps. The issue only affects the batches listed in the recall notice, in addition to the product included in Danone's earlier recall on 23 January 2026.

### **Additional recalls**

This follows recent recalls from Nestle of SMA infant formula products due to the same contamination issue. Only sold in Northern Ireland

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**Should you have any questions please contact  
the Early Years Service**

**[EarlyYears@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYears@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk)**

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