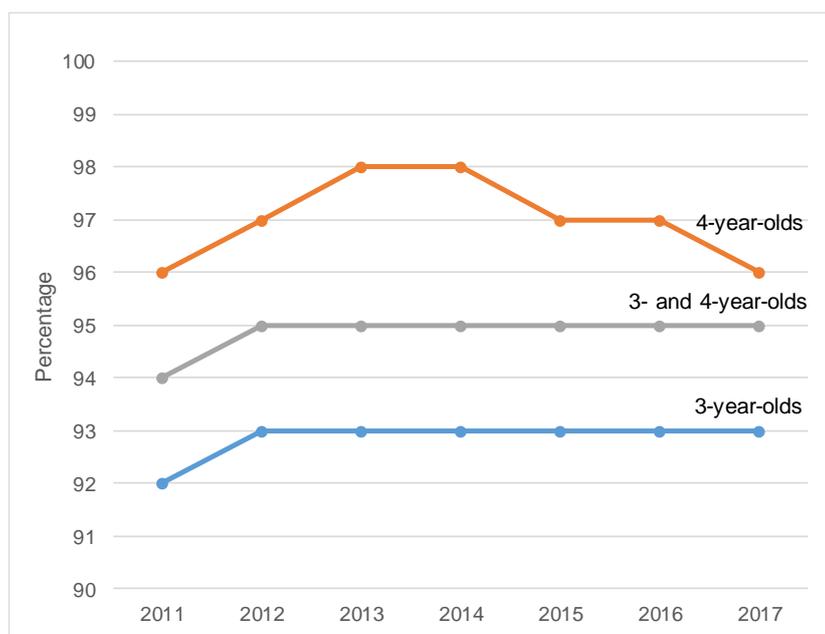




SFR 29/2017, 29 June 2017

Take up rate remains the same for 3-year-olds and decreases for 4-year-olds

Figure A: Take up rates of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education, 2011 to 2017



93% of the 3-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education in January 2017. The take up rate has remained at 93% since 2012.

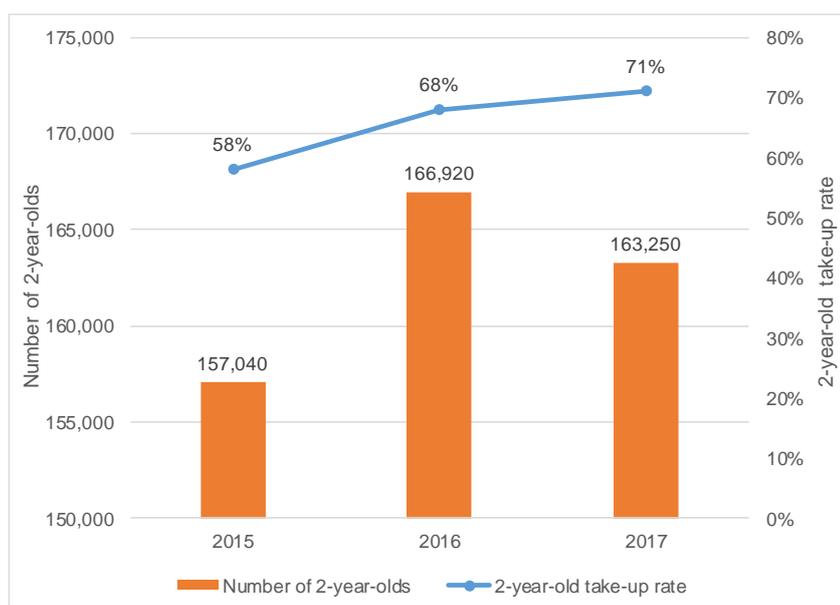
However, the number of 3-year-old children benefitting decreased from January 2016 by 4.3%, from 660,430 to 632,330. This reflects a drop in the birth rate in 2013. Further details on birth rates can be found in the technical document.

96% of the 4-year-old population benefitted from some funded early education in January 2017, a decrease from 97% in January 2016.

However, the number of 4-year-old children benefitting increased by 0.9%, from 679,000 to 685,330.

Take up rate for eligible 2-year-olds increases to 71%

Figure B: Take up rates of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education, 2015 to 2017



The number of 2-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education in January 2017 was 163,250, 71% of the eligible 2-year-old population. The number of 2-year-olds benefitting decreased by 2.2% from 166,920 in January 2016. This reflects a drop in the birth rate in 2014. Further details can be found in the technical document.

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About this release

This Statistical First Release (SFR) contains the latest information for January 2017 on provision of funded 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 2017 as part of the early years census, spring school census and the school level annual school census (for general hospital schools).

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 certain eligibility criteria and from September 2014, it was further extended to more 2-year-olds who met other eligibility criteria (further information can be found within the technical document).

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

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

(Tables 1 to 5LA in excel tables)

Numbers benefitting from funded early education

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 third time they have been based upon data from the Department for Work and Pensions (for further information see the technical document).

Birth rates

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 3-year-olds benefitting from funded early education in January 2017. Further information can be found in the [ONS statistical bulletin](#).

Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting has decreased

In January 2017, the number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 1,317,660, or 95% of the 3- and 4-year old population. The number decreased by 21,770 from 1,339,430 in January 2016 however 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 January 2011.

Separately, the number of 3-year-olds benefitting has also decreased

The number of 3-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 632,330 or 93% of the 3-year-old population. The number decreased by 28,100 from 660,430 in January 2016 however the general trend has been increasing from 604,320 in January 2011. The estimated participation rate remains the same as last year but the general trend has increased from 92% in January 2011.

... but the number of 4-year-olds benefitting increased

The number of 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 685,330 or 96% of the four 4-year-old population. The number increased by 6,330 from 679,000 in January 2016 and the general trend has been increasing from 620,150 in January 2011. The estimated participation rate is 96% compared to 97% last year.

71% of eligible 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education

In January 2017, the number of 2-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 163,250 or 71% of the eligible two year old population. The number decreased by 3,670 from 166,920 in January 2016 when the percentage take up was 68%.

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

Childminders

For 2017, 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).

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

In January 2017, private and voluntary providers (including childminders) have the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds (88% 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 2016 but turned 5-years-old after 31 December 2016.

Figure C: Percentage of children benefitting by provider type and age: January 2017, England

Type of provider	2-year-olds	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	3- & 4-year-olds
	%	%	%	%
Private and Voluntary Providers	84	60	19	38
Childminders	4	2	-	1
Independent Schools	1	2	2	2
Maintained Nursery Schools	4	4	1	3
Nursery Classes in Primary Schools	7	31	13	22
Infant Classes in Primary Schools	-	-	63	33
State-funded Secondary Schools	-	-	1	1
Special Schools	-	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Early Years Census (EYC), School Census (SC), and School Level Annual School Census (SLASC)

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 January 2011 to 62% in January 2017, whilst maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools have decreased their share from 39% in January 2011 to 35% in January 2017.

The proportional split of 4-year-olds across provider types has remained broadly similar over the last 7 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 January 2014 to 11% in January 2017 whilst private and voluntary providers have decreased their share from 96% in January 2014 to 88% in January 2017.

3. Numbers benefitting by Ofsted inspection rating (Table 10LA & 11LA)

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.

There are a number of factors which contributed to the rise in the number of settings rated good or outstanding. These factors are detailed in the accompanying technical document.

93% of 3- and 4-year-olds are in good or outstanding settings

In January 2017, 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 1,118,760 or 93%. This is up 7 percentage points on last year (86%).

12,440 (1%) of children attended settings rated inadequate. This is down 1 percentage point on last year.

96% of 2-year-olds are in good or outstanding settings

In January 2017, 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 134,810 or 96%. This is up 12 percentage points on last year (84%).

1,300 (1%) of children attended settings rated inadequate. This is down 3 percentage points on last year.

4. Numbers recorded as eligible and claiming early years pupil premium (Table 14 & 14LA)

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.

11% of 3-year-olds recorded as eligible and claiming early years pupil premium

In January 2017, of the 632,330 3-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education, 71,620 were recorded as eligible and claiming early years pupil premium.

13% of 4-year-olds recorded as eligible and claiming early years pupil premium

In January 2017, 32,130 were recorded as eligible and claiming 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.

5. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the [department's childcare and early year's 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

Ofsted inspection ratings

- 10LA 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
- 11LA 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

- 12 The basis on which a 2-year-old has been funded for an early education place
- 12LA The basis on which a 2-year-old has been funded for an early education place by local authority

SEN

- 13LA 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 Educational Needs provision by local authority

Early years pupil premium

- 14 The basis on which 3- and 4-year-old children were recorded as eligible and claiming early years pupil premium
- 14LA Number of 3- and 4-year-old children recorded as eligible and claiming early years pupil premium by age and local authority

Ethnicity

- 15 Number of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by Ethnic Group
- 15LA Number of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by ethnic Group and local authority
- 16 Number of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places¹ by Ethnic Group
- 16LA Number of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education places¹ by Ethnic Group and local authority

Teaching staff

- 17LA Total teaching staff delivering funded early education to 2-year-olds by provider type and local authority
- 18LA Total teaching staff delivering funded early education to 3- and 4-year-olds by provider type and local authority

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