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PROVISION FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE IN ENGLAND: JANUARY 2011

INTRODUCTION

This Statistical First Release (SFR) contains the latest information, for January 2011, on provision of education for under fives in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors in England, together with figures for earlier years. This includes:

- The number of **free early education places taken up**.
- The number of three and four year old **children benefiting from some free** early education.
- The number of three and four year olds **taking up any** early education places.
- The part-time equivalent (PTE) number of **free early education places filled** by three and four year olds.
- The number of three and four year olds in free early education by number of funded hours received.

KEY POINTS

Numbers of 3 and 4 year olds benefiting from some free early education (Table 1)

- In January 2011, the number of 3 and 4 year olds benefiting from some free early education (where each child is counted once – see note 15) was 1,224,465 or 95% of the 3 and 4 year old population. The figure in 2010 was 1,186,365 or 95%.
- The number of free early education places taken up (where children may be counted more than once if they take up free provision at two different providers – see note 16) was 1,246,091 or 97% of the 3 and 4 year old population. The figure in 2010 was 1,209,415 or 97%.

The figure of 97% differs from the 95% figure mentioned above as each child is only counted once in the number of children benefiting from some free early education. This is the fourth year that child level data are available, which allows for this calculation (child level data was collected for the first time in January 2008). Prior to 2008, aggregate returns meant that children could be counted more than once but it was not possible to identify this from aggregate data returns.

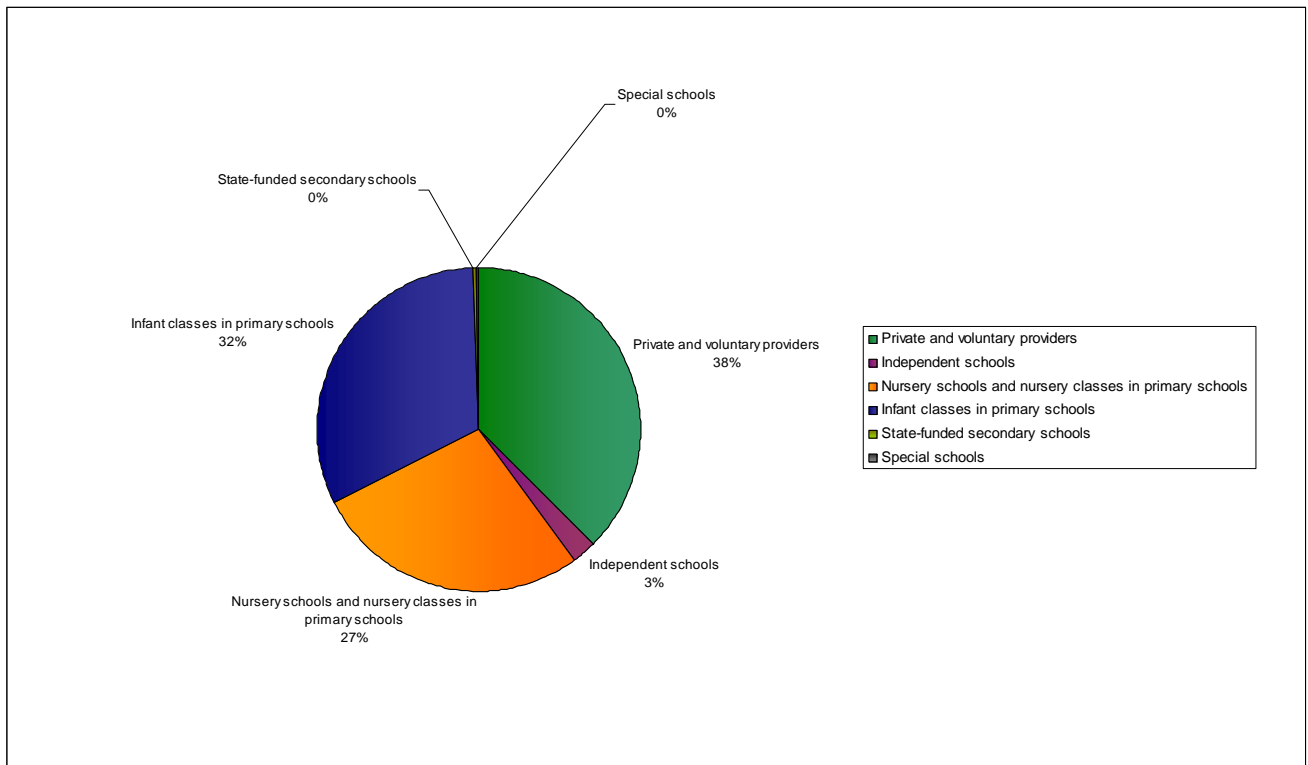
Numbers of 3 year olds benefiting from some free early education (Table 2)

- The number of 3 year olds benefiting from some free early education was 604,315 or 93% of the 3 year old population. Figures were 585,477 or 92% in 2010.
- The number of free early education places taken up by 3 year olds was 620,367 or 95% of the 3 year old population. Figures were 602,815 or 94% in 2010.

Numbers of 4 year olds benefiting from some free early education (Table 3)

- The number of 4 year olds benefiting from some free early education was 620,150 or 98% of the 4 year old population. Figures were 600,888 or 98% in 2010.
- The number of free early education places taken up by 4 year olds was 625,724 or 99% of the 4 year old population. Figures were 606,600 or 99% in 2010.

Figure 1: Distribution of number of 3 and 4 year old children benefiting from some free early education by type of provider (Table 1).



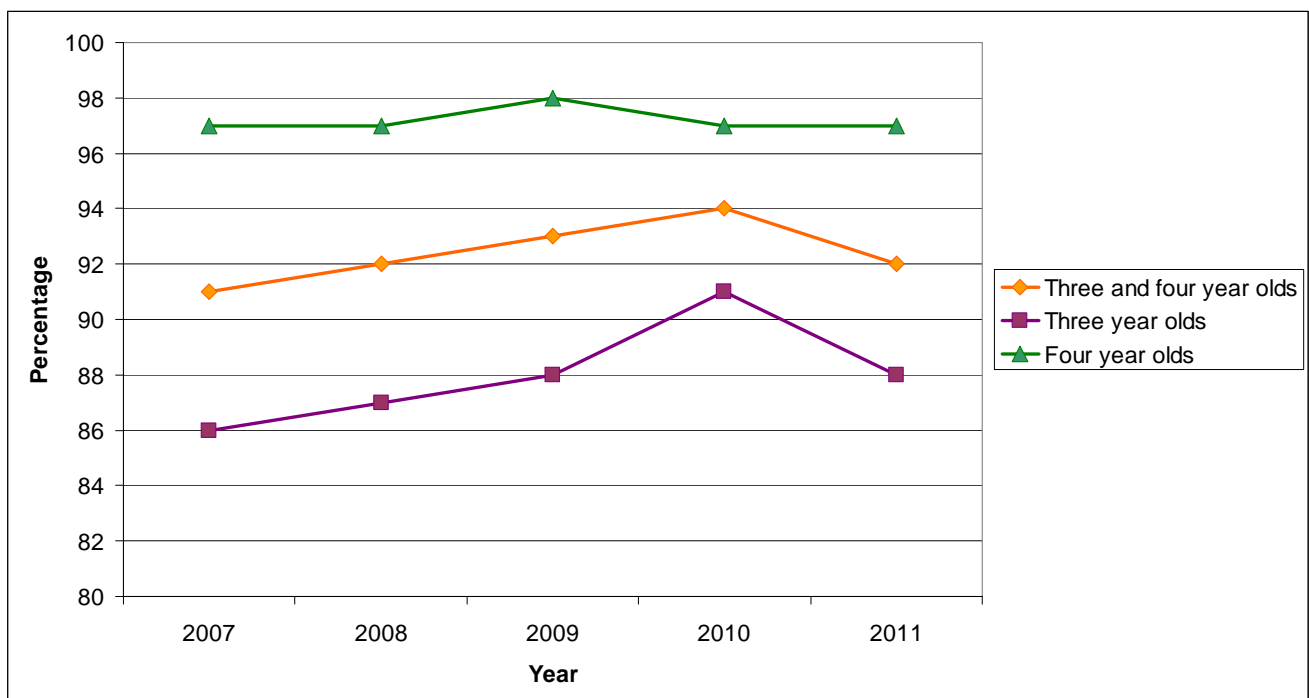
Part-time equivalent (PTE) number of free early education places filled by 3 and 4 year olds
(Table 4)

- The PTE number of free early education places taken up by **3** and **4** year olds was 1,182,380, or 92 per 100 of 3 and 4 year old children.
- The PTE number of free early education places taken up by **3** year olds was 571,120, or 88 per 100 of 3 year old children.
- The PTE number of free early education places taken up by **4** year olds was 611,260, or 97 per 100 of 4 year old children.

The figure for PTE funded places filled of 88 per 100 three year old children is lower than the figure of 93 per 100 children who benefit from some free early education (where each child is counted once) as not all children take up their **full** entitlement to free early education. One PTE funded place may be filled by more than one child taking up less than their full entitlement.

In a similar pattern to three year olds, not all four year olds take up their full entitlement, so the number of children benefiting from some free early education exceeds the PTE number of places filled. Figures show that four year olds are more likely to access the full entitlement than three year olds.

Figure 2: Part-time equivalent (PTE) number of free early education places filled by 3 and 4 year olds, 2007 to 2011 (Table 4)



TABLES

The tables to accompany this publication are listed below:

Table	Title	Coverage	Years
1	Number of three and four year old children taking up or benefiting from early education places by type of provider	England	2007-2011
1a	Number of three and four year olds taking up or benefiting from early education places by type of provider and local authority	Local Authority	2011
2	Number of three year old children taking up or benefiting from early education places by type of provider	England	2007-2011
2a	Number of three year olds taking up or benefiting from early education places by type of provider and local authority	Local Authority	2011
3	Number of four year old children taking up or benefiting from early education places by type of provider	England	2007-2011
3a	Number of four year olds taking up or benefiting from early education places by type of provider and local authority	Local Authority	2011
4	Part time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds by type of provider and age	England	2007-2011
4a	Part time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds by type of provider and local authority	Local Authority	2011
4b	Part time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three year olds by type of provider and local authority	Local Authority	2011
4c	Part time equivalent number of free early education places filled by four year olds by type of provider and local authority	Local Authority	2011
5	Number of three and four year olds in free early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, by banded number of funded hours and local authority	Local Authority	2011
6	Number of three and four year olds in free early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by banded number of funded hours and local authority	Local Authority	2011

Only national level tables have been included as part of this publication document. They are tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 from the list above.

All of the tables above, including Local Authority level tables are available in Excel format under the "Additional Information" section on the Department's website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001009/index.shtml>

As part of a Government drive for data transparency in official publications and to make data more accessible, supporting underlying data for this publication will be published at the same time as the publication and available in the 'Publication's Underlying Data' section from the link above.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background

Eligibility for free early education places

1. All four year olds have been entitled to a free early education place since 1998 and from April 2004 this entitlement was extended to all three year olds. All children are eligible for a free part-time funded place from 1 September, 1 January or 1 April following their third birthday for up to two years before they reach compulsory school age. Free places can be accessed in a variety of settings in the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors. Local Authorities (LAs) make funding available to providers to enable them to provide free places.

2. A funded place currently consists of a minimum of 15 hours of free early education per week for thirty-eight weeks of the year. The free entitlement has been extended to 15 hours a week from 12.5 hours a week from September 2010 delivered more flexibly. The extended entitlement has been available to the 25% most disadvantaged children in every LA since September 2009 and to all children in Pathfinder LAs since April 2007.

Sources of Information

3. The main sources of data for this publication are the annual Early Years Census (EYC), the School Census (SC), and the School Level Annual School Census (SLASC).

4. For EYC, this is the fourth year that Local Authorities have been under a statutory obligation to send individual child-level information for every funded three and four year old child in a private, voluntary or independent provider. The return provides child-level information about the number of three and four year olds benefiting from **some free** early education in private, voluntary and independent providers. Also, the return records the aggregate numbers of three and four year olds **taking up** early education places in those private and voluntary providers and independent schools that are registered with LAs and receive some government funding for delivery of the free entitlement.

5. In 2007 the EYC consisted of two returns, both made in January. The provider return recorded the numbers of three and four year olds **taking up** early education places in those private and voluntary providers and independent schools that are registered with LAs and receive some government funding for delivery of the free entitlement. The funding return from LAs provided information about the number of three and four year olds benefiting from **some free** early education in private, voluntary and independent providers.

6. The SC collects data on the number of three and four year olds benefiting from some early years education in maintained schools, at January of each year. SLASC collects information on the number of three and four year olds benefiting from some early years education in independent schools. Three and four year olds in maintained nursery and primary schools are counted as one PTE funded place so there is no distinction between the numbers benefiting from some early education and the PTE number of funded places filled and these terms are used interchangeably. All maintained school provision is termed 'free'.

Data Quality and Uses of Data

Completeness

7. The 2011 child-level information collected directly from Local Authorities as part of the Early Years Census (EYC) data collection exercise is based on 20,311 returns from 152 Local Authorities in England, reflecting data as at 21 January 2011.

Population Estimates

8. The population estimates are derived from mid-year estimates and projections provided by the Office for National Statistics. They are subject to a margin of error and should be considered to be approximations.

9. Numbers of three and four year olds taking up or benefiting from early education places are expressed as percentages of the relevant population. Numbers of PTE funded places filled by three and four year olds are expressed as places per 100 children. The number taking up early education places can exceed 100% in some instances and may be overstated or understated in others because children may be counted more than once (if they take up a place at more than one provider) and because the counts of children taking up or benefiting from free places do not correspond exactly to the counts of children in the population. Children not resident in England are included in the counts of children taking up places.

10. As the ONS population estimates are not directly comparable to the EYC data, the proportions of children benefitting from some free early education and the proportion of PTE places filled have not been presented for data at Local Authority level. This is because issues mentioned above have a greater impact on the data at Local Authority level therefore it is less reliable to publish this information at Local Authority level.

Uses of the data

11. The purpose of this publication is to provide the latest information on three and four year olds benefiting from the entitlement to free early education. It is assumed that users of this publication will be interested in the number of children benefiting, specifically the take up rates as a proportion of the population, as well as the time series showing how the take up has changed over time. LA users may be interested to see local comparisons on how their numbers compare to other authorities.

Quality

12. The data source for this publication is the Early Years Census so there is no grossing or estimation required therefore no scope for estimation errors.

13. Providers in the Early Years Census are required to return child level data for all children in receipt of the free entitlement. They are also required to return a headcount for all children at the establishment, regardless of whether funded or not (number of children taking up early education places). This headcount should be greater than or equal to the number of children in receipt of free early education. A small number of providers, spread across 30 Local Authorities, misclassified the headcount figures allocating children to the wrong age category. In these authorities, the headcount of children broken down by age shows a smaller number than the number in receipt of the free entitlement. When 3 and 4 year olds are combined, the headcount is greater than the number receiving the free entitlement as should be the case. Numbers affected are small and will have no impact on the national figures, but may be evident when looking at Local Authority level data.

14. The Early Years Census is only completed by providers who have children in receipt of free early education. Any provider with no children receiving free education are not required to make an Early Years Census return therefore the number of children in the publication does not represent the total number of children in Early Education across the country.

Definitions

15. **Number of children benefiting from some free early education** – This is the number of children returned on the EYC as being in receipt of some free early education. As data is returned at child level from 2008, children who access more than one provider have been identified and counted once only. In previous publications this count was referred to as Actual number of children benefiting from some free early education. Descriptions have been changed this year to avoid confusion but methodology for calculating remains the same.

16. **Number free early education places taken up** - Prior to 2008, Local Authorities recorded the number of children benefiting from some free early education as part of the provider-level EYC data collection. This meant that any children attending more than one provider were counted more than once, at each provider they attended and therefore this count refers to places rather than number of children to avoid confusion with the definition described in note 15. The lack of child-level data meant that cases where children were at more than one provider could not be identified by the Department. These figures have been included in order to show trends over a longer time period. In previous publications this count was referred to as number of children benefiting from some free early education. Descriptions have been changed this year to avoid confusion but methodology for calculating remains the same.

17. **Number of children taking up early education places** – This is a count of children that attend funded early education providers, whether they are in receipt of funding or not. As this is a total headcount, these figures are greater than those referring to children benefiting from some free early education, which only include funded children.

18. **Part Time Equivalent (PTE) places filled** – A PTE place is equivalent to 15 hours. The PTE places filled is the number of funded places filled according to the amount of free entitlement a child is receiving. It is derived by dividing the number of funded hours a child is receiving by 15 hours and summing for all children. A three or four year old taking up a place at a maintained nursery or primary school is counted as one PTE funded place. The free entitlement for three and four year olds is 15 hours but LAs may decide to offer up to 25 hours per week (one full-time equivalent) to help manage the transition for four year olds into compulsory education. As this is discretionary, the hours that four year olds attend above the free entitlement are not included in the calculation of the PTE number of funded places in this SFR.

Children do not necessarily take up their full entitlement so one PTE funded place may be taken up by more than one child accessing less than their full entitlement e.g. a 15 hour place could be filled by two children, one child attending 7 hours and the other attending 8 hours. Consequently, the **number of children benefiting** from some free early education exceeds the **PTE number of funded places filled** by children.

Methodological Changes

19. Previously, data for academies were included as part of the independent category. Due to the large increase in academies, these have been taken out of the Independent category and included in a new category of "state-funded primary" or "state-funded secondary". These categories will include all through schools. Numbers will increase slightly as a result, but the time series data in this publication has been backdated with this change so previous years are still comparable with the current year.

20. Data for maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools will include dually registered pupils. In the past, only solely registered pupils have been included but this missed out on a small number of dual main registered pupils. The time series data in this publication has been backdated with this change so previous years are still comparable with the current year.

21. Academies have been incorporated into tables on PTE places where they were previously excluded. The time series data in this publication has been backdated with this change so previous years are still comparable with the current year.

22. In order to be as transparent as possible with the information in this publication, exact figures will be presented. This is a change from previous years when rounding was used. Suppression will still be used for small numbers to protect confidentiality.

23. Up to 2010, 12.5 hours was equal to one PTE place and this was comparable with 2007 and before. Up until the introduction of the Early Years Census at child level, aggregate banded information on funded hours was collected, with each band equating to a decimal number of PTE places filled (0.5 to 2.5 hours per week as 0.2 places, 3 to 5 hours as 0.4 places, 5.5 to 7.5 as 0.6 places, 8 to 10 as 0.8 places, and 10.5 to 12.5 as 1 PTE place). However, as the free entitlement has been extended to 15 hours for all children, PTE places filled is now based on one PTE being equal to 15 hours. Therefore the previous bands for equating funded hours to PTE places are no longer applicable. Instead, for 2011, PTE places are an exact representation of the number of hours per week of education received by each child. The time series data in this publication has been backdated with this change so previous years are still comparable with the current year, apart from 2007 which was an aggregate return so it is not possible to revise the methodology for this year.

24. Up to 2010, the free entitlement consisted of up to 12.5 hours per week. However, in certain circumstances (see note 1 and 2) some children were eligible to receive up to 15 hours per week. As a PTE place was based on the standard 12.5 hours per week, children accessing 15 hours were recorded as 1.2 PTE places filled. As all children in 2011 are entitled to up to 15 hours a week, 1 PTE place has been redefined as 15 hours and no children will be shown as accessing more than 1 PTE place. This change in methodology could be wholly or partly responsible for the drop in PTE places filled in Private, Voluntary, and Independent providers which may not be a true change but as a result of this change in methodology required to reflect policy change.

Related Publications

25. Related publications can be found at:

Northern Ireland:

Statistics detailed in 'Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2009/10' were published on 27th May 2011 and are available at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats-cib-children_order.htm

A range of statistics are published, including numbers of Day Nurseries, Child Minders, Play Groups and Out of School Clubs, places available, and limited information on children/child minders sponsored by Health and Social Care Trusts.

Scotland:

The latest Pre-School & Childcare Census results (as at January 2010), published in September 2010, can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00856>

In addition, a Pre-School Education Census is carried out in order to monitor the number of pre-school education providers, the number of children receiving pre-school education and the number of staff/teachers. This Census is now conducted in September, and the latest publication was published in December 2010 (based on September 2010 Census). The latest publication can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/04154230/0>

Wales:

The 'Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales' published information on numbers of regulated settings and related activity, including children's day care (under 8s provision or early years) as part of their 2009-10 Annual Report which is available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/cssiwsb/site/newcssiw/publications/annualreports/annrep0910/;jsessionid=TVK4NnwGH2TpNWpnLVjHLJxbV7L2KdvfL6ZGXcrVTHs4J7n5H2ph!1917460886?lang=en>

This includes information about numbers of settings and places, inspection, complaints and protection activity. From 2011-12 they are planning to publish this information quarterly. The first publication for Q1 2011-12 is due in August 2012. There are also some plans to develop outputs with more details about staff and children based on the data collected in annual returns.

The Department for Children, Education, Life-long Learning and Skills is developing an Early Year's Census. This is at the pilot stage so there are no dates yet for the rollout or subsequent publication.

Confidentiality

26. In order to ensure confidentiality of children, the following suppression conventions have been used in this statistical release:

- Any numbers less than 3 have been suppressed and have been replaced by a 'x'. To protect the suppressed number, secondary suppression may be required in some cases.
- Percentages are displayed to the nearest whole number.
- Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was zero.
- A '..' represents data not available.
- A '-' represents less than 0.5%.

Consultation and Queries

User Consultation

27. A focus group has been set up to consult on the format and content of this publication and statistics around the provision for children under 5. The first user consultation closed on 8 April 2011 and results of the consultation will be published shortly at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/online-surveys.shtml>

28. If you would like to be involved in future consultations, please contact the statistician for this publication (contact details can be found in the next section).

Queries

29. Any queries or comments on the statistics in this publication should be addressed to:

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**Table 1: Number of three and four year old children taking up or benefiting from early education places^{1,2} by type of provider
England
2007 - 2011**

Position in January each year

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Private and voluntary providers³					
Number taking up early education places ⁴	446,928 ⁵	461,074	471,458	495,452	511,707
Percentage of population ⁶	39	39	39	40	40
Number of free early education places taken up ^{4,7}	420,668	436,978	444,602	459,723	478,927
Percentage of population ⁶	37	37	37	37	37
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁸	..	413,147	421,526	436,961	457,602
Percentage of population ⁶	..	35	35	35	36
Independent schools					
Number taking up early education places ^{4,9}	50,413	52,084	51,337	49,983	50,011
Percentage of population ⁶	4	4	4	4	4
Number of free early education places taken up ^{4,7}	37,903	36,688	36,458	35,379	33,965
Percentage of population ⁶	3	3	3	3	3
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁸	..	36,401	36,290	35,091	33,664
Percentage of population ⁶	..	3	3	3	3
Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools¹⁰:					
Number benefiting from some free early education	664,258	683,296	695,740	707,709	726,054
Percentage of population ⁶	58	57	57	57	56
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools					
Number benefiting from some free early education	319,091	321,358	323,650	329,030	335,278
Percentage of population ⁶	28	27	27	26	26
Infant classes in primary schools¹¹					
Number benefiting from some free early education	345,167	361,938	372,090	378,679	390,776
Percentage of population ⁶	30	30	31	30	30
State-funded secondary schools¹²					
Number benefiting from some free early education ^{4,7}	404	767	1,239	2,606	3,103
Percentage of population ⁶	-	-	-	-	-
Special schools^{13,14}					
Number benefiting from some free early education	3,832	3,953	3,960	3,998	4,042
Percentage of population ⁶	-	-	-	-	-
All providers					
Number taking up early education places ⁴	1,165,835 ⁵	1,201,174	1,223,734	1,259,748	1,294,917
Percentage of population ⁶	101	101	101	101	101
Number of free early education places taken up ^{4,7}	1,127,065	1,161,682	1,181,999	1,209,415	1,246,091
Percentage of population ⁶	98	97	97	97	97
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁸	..	1,137,564	1,158,755	1,186,365	1,224,465
Percentage of population ⁶	..	95	95	95	95

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

(1) Count of children aged three and four at 31st December in the previous calendar year.

(2) Numbers of three and four year olds in schools may include some two year olds.

(3) Includes some Local Authority day nurseries registered to receive funding.

(4) Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.

(5) Scaled up from the data as returned by providers to all providers of early years education.

(6) Numbers of three and four year olds taking up places expressed as a percentage of the three and four year old population.

(7) Local Authorities returned the number of three and four year olds for which they expected to receive funding.

(8) Any child attending more than one provider will have only been counted once.

(9) Includes some children in direct grant nursery schools.

(10) Includes primary academies.

(11) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.

(12) Includes maintained secondary schools and secondary academies.

(13) Includes general hospital schools.

(14) Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

- less than 0.5%

.. Not available

Table 2: Number of three year old children taking up or benefiting from early education places^{1,2} by type of provider
England
2007 - 2011

Position in January each year

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Private and voluntary providers³					
Number taking up early education places ⁴	336,224 ⁵	341,076	352,534	361,992	376,025
Percentage of population ⁶	57	56	58	57	58
Number of free early education places taken up ^{4,7}	323,715	334,671	338,788	352,122	365,810
Percentage of population ⁶	55	55	56	55	56
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁸	..	316,906	321,605	334,986	349,982
Percentage of population ⁶	..	52	53	52	54
Independent schools					
Number taking up early education places ^{4,9}	25,068	25,198	24,322	24,736	24,260
Percentage of population ⁶	4	4	4	4	4
Number of free early education places taken up ^{4,7}	17,523	16,497	15,986	16,423	15,689
Percentage of population ⁶	3	3	3	3	2
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁸	..	16,296	15,860	16,221	15,465
Percentage of population ⁶	..	3	3	3	2
Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools¹⁰:					
Number benefiting from some free early education	221,513	223,443	223,853	231,691	236,110
Percentage of population ⁶	38	37	37	36	36
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools					
Number benefiting from some free early education	220,146	222,244	222,739	230,360	234,895
Percentage of population ⁶	37	37	37	36	36
Infant classes in primary schools¹¹					
Number benefiting from some free early education	1,367	1,199	1,114	1,331	1,215
Percentage of population ⁶	-	-	-	-	-
State-funded secondary schools¹²					
Number benefiting from some free early education ^{4,7}	165	280	434	998	1,217
Percentage of population ⁶	-	-	-	-	-
Special schools^{13,14}					
Number benefiting from some free early education	1,695	1,724	1,692	1,581	1,541
Percentage of population ⁶	-	-	-	-	-
All providers					
Number taking up early education places ⁴	584,665 ⁵	591,721	602,835	620,998	639,153
Percentage of population ⁶	100	98	99	97	98
Number of free early education places taken up ^{4,7}	564,611	576,615	580,753	602,815	620,367
Percentage of population ⁶	96	95	95	94	95
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁸	..	558,649	563,444	585,477	604,315
Percentage of population ⁶	..	92	92	92	93

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

- (1) Count of children aged three at 31st December in the previous calendar year.
- (2) Numbers of three year olds in schools may include some two year olds.
- (3) Includes some Local Authority day nurseries registered to receive funding.
- (4) Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.
- (5) Scaled up from the data as returned by providers to all providers of early years education.
- (6) Numbers of three year olds taking up places expressed as a percentage of the three year old population.
- (7) Local Authorities returned the number of three year olds for which they expected to receive funding.
- (8) Any child attending more than one provider will have only been counted once.
- (9) Includes some children in direct grant nursery schools.
- (10) Includes primary academies.
- (11) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.
- (12) Includes maintained secondary schools and secondary academies.
- (13) Includes general hospital schools.
- (14) Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

- less than 0.5%

.. Not available

Table 3: Number of four year old children taking up or benefiting from early education places¹ by type of provider
England
2007 - 2011

Position in January each year

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Private and voluntary providers²					
Number taking up early education places ³	110,704 ⁴	119,998	118,924	133,460	135,682
Percentage of population ⁵	20	20	20	22	21
Number of free early education places taken up ^{3,6}	96,953	102,307	105,814	107,601	113,117
Percentage of population ⁵	17	17	17	18	18
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁷	..	96,241	99,921	101,975	107,620
Percentage of population ⁵	..	16	17	17	17
Independent schools					
Number taking up early education places ^{3,8}	25,345	26,886	27,015	25,247	25,751
Percentage of population ⁵	4	5	4	4	4
Number of free early education places taken up ^{3,6}	20,380	20,191	20,472	18,956	18,276
Percentage of population ⁵	4	3	3	3	3
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁷	..	20,105	20,430	18,870	18,199
Percentage of population ⁵	..	3	3	3	3
Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools⁹:					
Number benefiting from some free early education	442,745	459,853	471,887	476,018	489,944
Percentage of population ⁵	79	78	78	78	77
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools					
Number benefiting from some free early education	98,945	99,114	100,911	98,670	100,383
Percentage of population ⁵	18	17	17	16	16
Infant classes in primary schools¹⁰					
Number benefiting from some free early education	343,800	360,739	370,976	377,348	389,561
Percentage of population ⁵	61	61	61	62	62
State-funded secondary schools¹¹					
Number benefiting from some free early education ^{3,6}	239	487	805	1,608	1,886
Percentage of population ⁵	-	-	-	-	-
Special schools^{12,13}					
Number benefiting from some free early education	2,137	2,229	2,268	2,417	2,501
Percentage of population ⁵	-	-	-	-	-
All providers					
Number taking up early education places ³	581,170 ⁴	609,453	620,899	638,750	655,764
Percentage of population ⁵	103	104	103	105	104
Number of free early education places taken up ^{3,6}	562,454	585,067	601,246	606,600	625,724
Percentage of population ⁵	100	99	99	99	99
Number benefiting from some free early education ⁷	..	578,915	595,311	600,888	620,150
Percentage of population ⁵	..	98	98	98	98

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

- (1) Count of children aged four at 31st December in the previous calendar year.
(2) Includes some Local Authority day nurseries registered to receive funding.
(3) Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.
(4) Scaled up from the data as returned by providers to all providers of early years education.
(5) Numbers of four year olds taking up places expressed as a percentage of the four year old population.
(6) Local Authorities returned the number of four year olds for which they expected to receive funding.
(7) Any child attending more than one provider will have only been counted once.
(8) Includes some children in direct grant nursery schools.
(9) Includes primary academies.
(10) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.
(11) Includes maintained secondary schools and secondary academies.
(12) Includes general hospital schools.
(13) Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

- less than 0.5%
.. Not available

Table 4: Part time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds by type of provider and age^{1,2}**England****2007 - 2011****Position in January each year**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Three and four year olds					
Maintained nursery, state-funded primary and state-funded secondary schools^{3,4}					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	664,662	684,063	696,979	710,315	729,157
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	58	57	57	57	57
Private, voluntary and independent providers⁵					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	387,366	411,514	432,619	460,953	453,223
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	34	35	36	37	35
All maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	1,052,028	1,095,577	1,129,598	1,171,268	1,182,380
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	91	92	93	94	92
Three year olds					
Maintained nursery, state-funded primary and state-funded secondary schools^{3,4}					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	221,678	223,723	224,287	232,689	237,327
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	38	37	37	36	36
Private, voluntary and independent providers⁵					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	283,135	300,058	314,047	345,098	333,793
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	48	50	51	54	51
All maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	504,813	523,781	538,334	577,787	571,120
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	86	87	88	91	88
Four year olds					
Maintained nursery, state-funded primary and state-funded secondary schools^{3,4}					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	442,984	460,340	472,692	477,626	491,830
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	79	78	78	78	78
Private, voluntary and independent providers⁵					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	104,231	111,456	118,572	115,855	119,430
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	19	19	20	19	19
All maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers					
Part time equivalent funded places filled	547,215	571,796	591,264	593,481	611,260
Part time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population	97	97	98	97	97

Source: Early Years Census (EYC), School Census (SC), and School Level Annual School Census (SLASC)⁶

(1) Children do not necessarily take up their full free entitlement and so one part time equivalent (PTE) funded place can be filled by more than one child. As a result, the number of children benefiting from some free early education (tables 1 to 3) can

(2) A PTE place is equivalent to 15 hours. The PTE places filled is the number of funded places filled according to the amount of free entitlement a child is receiving. A child taking up a place at a maintained nursery or primary school is counted as one PTE funded place.

(3) Includes special schools, academies and general hospital schools.

(4) Headcount of children, age as at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census. All children counted as 1 PTE.

(5) Part-time equivalent number of children, age as at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census exercise.

(6) Figures from private, voluntary and independent providers are taken from the Early Years Census and figures from maintained nursery, primary and other maintained providers are taken from School Census. Figures for general hospital schools are taken from SLASC. Figures exclude non-funded providers.

(5) Headcount of children, age as at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census. All children counted as 1 PTE.