



Department  
for Education



## Statistical First Release

### Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2015

Reference	SFR 20/2015
Date	25 June 2015
Coverage	England
Theme	Children, Education and Skills
Issued by	Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT
Press office	020 7783 8300
Public enquiries	0370 000 2288
Statistician	Adam Whitaker
Phone	0114 274 2458
Email	<a href="mailto:Adam.Whitaker@education.gsi.gov.uk">Adam.Whitaker@education.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Internet	<a href="#">Statistics: Childcare and Early Years</a>

**1,321,900** 3- and 4-year-olds took up some funded early education, equating to 646,670 (94%) of 3-year-olds and 675,220 (99%) of 4-year-olds.

**42%** of funded 3- and 4-year-olds are in private, voluntary and independent provision. This has increased from 40% in 2011. Private, voluntary and independent providers have the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds (96% and 64% respectively) whilst maintained settings have the greater share of 4-year-olds (79%).

**157,040** 2-year-olds took up funded early education. This equates to 58% of 2-year-olds eligible to take up funded early education. The vast majority (152,050) of which stated economic criteria as the qualifying basis for funding.

**85%** of 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds receive their funded early education in settings rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.

#### A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

## 1. Background and context

This Statistical First Release (SFR) contains the latest information for January 2015 on provision of 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 2015 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.

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 meeting the following eligibility criteria: they have a parent in receipt of: income support; income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA); income-related employment and support allowance (ESA); support through Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income not exceeding £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit); or they are looked after by a local authority.

From September 2014, the entitlement to 15 hours of funded early education per week for 38 weeks of the year was extended further to 2-year-olds who met the following eligibility criteria: they have a parent in receipt of Working Tax Credits and have an annual gross income not exceeding £16,190 a year as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; they have a current statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care plan; they are entitled to Disability Living Allowance; they are no longer looked after by the local authority as a result of an adoption order, a special guardianship order, or a child arrangements order which specifies with whom the child lives.

## 2. Numbers benefitting by age (Tables 1 to 4 in excel tables)

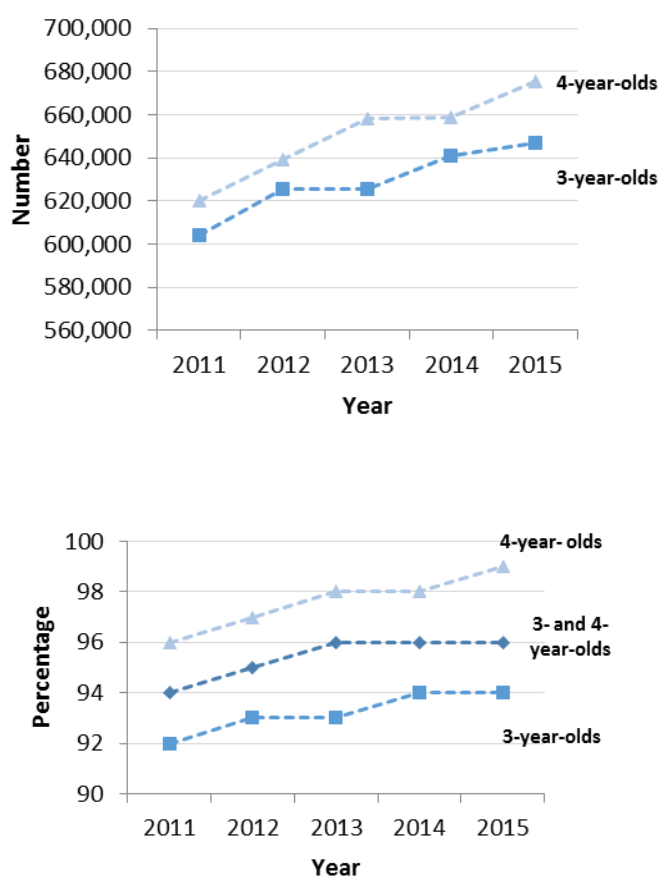
The number of children benefitting from some funded early education is calculated as the head count of children in receipt of some funded early education. Where they are receiving funded early education at more than one private, voluntary or independent provider, they have only been counted once at the 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 shown for this first time this year and is based upon data from the Department for Work and Pensions (for further information see the methodology document).

Figure A: Numbers and participation rates of 3- and 4- year olds benefitting from funded early education continue to rise.

Numbers and participation rates of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education, 2011 to 2015 (Tables 2 to 4).



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

In January 2015, the number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 1,321,900, or 96% of the 3- and 4-year-old population. This increased 21,990 on the previous year (1,299,910); the take-up rate of the 3- and 4-year-old population remained the same.

Separately, the number of 3-year-olds benefitting has increased ...	The number of 3-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 646,670 or 94% of the 3-year-old population. This increased 5,440 from last year (641,230) and the general trend has been increasing since 2011 (604,320). The participation rate remains the same as last year but the general trend has increased since 2011 (92%).
... and the number of 4-year-olds benefitting also increased	The number of 4-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 675,220 or 99% of the 4-year-old population. This increased 16,540 from last year (658,680) and the general trend has been increasing since 2011 (620,150). The participation rate (99%) has increased from last year (98%).
58% of eligible 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education.	In January 2015, the number of 2-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education was 157,040. This equates to 58% of the 2-year-old population estimated to be eligible for a funded early education place.

### 3. Numbers benefitting by provider type (Tables 1 to 4 in excel tables)

For 2015, independent childminders who are registered with Ofsted and have one or more funded children were 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 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 9 and 10).

Private and voluntary providers have the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds, but not 4-year-olds...	In January 2015, private and voluntary providers (including childminders) have the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds (95% and 61% respectively). Maintained settings have the greater share of 4-year-olds (79%) because the 4-year-old count includes 4-year-olds who started reception in September 2014 but turned 5-years-old after 31 December 2014.
--	---

...and 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 2011 to 61% in 2015, whilst maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools have decreased their share from 39% in 2011 to 36% in 2015.

The proportional split of 4-year-olds across provider types has remained broadly similar over the last 5 years.

Figure B: Private and voluntary providers take the greater share of 2- and 3-year-olds  
Percent benefiting by provider type January 2015.

	2-year-olds	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	3- & 4-year-olds
	%	%	%	%
Private and Voluntary Providers	92	60	19	39
Childminders	3	1	-	1
Independent Schools	-	2	2	2
Maintained Nursery Schools	2	4	2	3
Nursery Classes in Primary Schools	2	31	13	22
Infant Classes in Primary Schools	-	-	62	32
State-funded Secondary Schools	-	-	1	1
Special Schools	-	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100

#### 4. Numbers benefitting by Ofsted inspection rating (Tables 13, 13a in excel tables)

Matching Ofsted inspections data to the Early Years 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.

85% of 3- and 4-year-olds are in good or outstanding settings

In January 2015, 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 with an Ofsted rating of good or outstanding was 1,035,870 or 85%. This is up 1 percentage point on last year (84%).

22,970 (2%) of children attended settings that had an Ofsted rating of inadequate. This is the same as last year.

85% of 2-year-olds in good or outstanding settings

In January 2015, 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 with an Ofsted rating of good or outstanding were 118,280 or 85% of the total number of children benefitting.

4,250 (3%) of children attended settings that had an Ofsted rating of inadequate.

---

## 5. List of tables

The following tables are available in excel format on the department's statistics website: [Childcare and Early Years Statistics](#).

### Numbers benefitting from funded EY education

- 1 Number of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 1a Number of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 1b Percentage of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by local authority.
- 2 Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 2a Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 2b Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by local authority
- 3 Number of 3-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 3a Number of 3-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority
- 4 Number of 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider
- 4a Number of 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places by type of provider and local authority

### Funded hours

- 5 Number and percentage of 2-year-olds in funded early education in private, voluntary and independent providers by banded number of funded hours and local authority
- 5a Number and percentage of 2-year-olds in funded early education in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by banded number of funded hours and local authority
- 5b Number and percentage of 2-year-olds in funded 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

- 6 Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in funded early education in private, voluntary and independent providers, by banded number of funded hours and local authority
- 6a Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in funded early education, in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by banded number of funded hours and local authority
- 6b Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in funded 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

### PVI provider types

- 7 Number of 2-year-olds in funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by type of provider
- 7a Number of 3- and 4-year-olds in funded early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, and in maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools by type of provider
- 8 Number of providers delivering funded early education to 2-year-olds by type of provider and local authority
- 8a Number of providers delivering funded early education to 3- and 4-year-olds by type of provider and local authority

### PVI provider staff qualifications

- 9 Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider

- 9a Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS who work directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority
- 10 Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider
- 10a Number and percentage of private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS who work directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority
- 11 Number and percentage of 2-year-olds benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider
- 11a Number and percentage of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 2-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority
- 12 Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS1/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider

- 12a Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education at private, voluntary and independent providers with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS and at settings with staff with QTS/EYTS/EYPS working directly with 3- and 4-year-olds, by category of provider and local authority

#### **OFSTED inspection ratings**

- 13 Actual number and percentage 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 Ofsted inspection rating and local authority
- 13a Actual number and percentage 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 Ofsted inspection rating and local authority

#### **2-year-old basis for funding**

- 14 The basis on which a 2-year-old has been funded for an early education place
- 14a The basis on which a 2-year-old has been funded for an early education place by local authority

#### **SEN (published as additional tables on 23 July 2015)**

- 15 Number and percentage of 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education, by special educational needs provision by local authority
- 15a Number and percentage of 3- and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education, by special educational needs provision by local authority





Department  
for Education



© Crown copyright 2015

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [Open Government Licence](#) or e-mail: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

This document is also available from our website at: [Statistics: Childcare and Early Years](#).