



# Childcare and Early Years Education



## **Nursery Education Fund**

The Government funds a part-time nursery education place (free entitlement) for all three and four-year-olds whose parents wish to access it. Many early years settings in Westminster receive funding for three and four year olds. The settings that deliver the free entitlement for up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year are highlighted in the directory.

## ***What is Early Years Education?***

The foundation stage for children aged 3 to 5 sets out 6 areas of learning and development to promote a high quality, positive early learning experience for young children. Early years settings are supported by advisory teachers and have the quality of the education they offer assessed in regular inspections by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). In addition providers must have an Equal Opportunities Policy and must follow the Code of Practice on Special Educational Needs.

## ***What do parents have to do?***

Parents may be required to complete some paperwork at the Early Years setting that their child attends. Each term the manager of the setting will complete a head-count form listing all three and four year olds that attend that setting and claim the funding for eligible children. Parents should ask the manager for details of the free entitlement.

### ***When are children eligible?***

Where places are funded for three year olds, a child becomes eligible for funding from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.

<b>Child's 3rd birthday is between these dates</b>	<b>Child will be eligible for a place from:</b>
1 January to 31 March	1 April following their third birthday until statutory school age.
1 April to 31 August	1 September following their third birthday until statutory school age.
1 September to 31 December	1 January following their third birthday until statutory school age.

### ***Finding an early years provider that suits you***

There are a number of different types of early education setting that can offer the free entitlement:

- day nurseries, private nursery schools, maintained nursery schools and nursery classes attached to primary schools, preschools and playgroups
- primary school reception classes, where schools operate an early admission policy to admit four year olds
- accredited childminders who are part of networks approved to deliver early education
- Sure Start Children's Centres

There's no guarantee of getting a place with a particular provider, the Family Information Service (FIS) will provide a list of suitable ofsted registered providers for your chosen area. There's no voucher or grant involved – just check that the provider is registered to offer the entitlement. You can contact the FIS by calling 020 7641 7929.

## Information for providers

If you are a nursery provider and want to access this funding for parents that have children at your setting, please contact FIS on Tel: **020 7641 7929**.

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We will contribute to the well being, happiness and achievement of children, families and their communities.

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