

Early Years Pupil Premium

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is it?

It is direct funding to early years settings and childminders to help them improve the education they provide for 3 and 4 year olds.

Who is it for?

Children aged 3 and 4 years attending for their Universal entitlement to free early education. This includes children attending nursery schools and classes, private nurseries and childminders.

Who can claim it?

It can be claimed for eligible children attending for free early education (not including the Extended Entitlement – 30 hours) Children who are aged 4 and in reception of a primary or first school should claim school aged pupil premium by applying for free school meals. Children do not need to take up the full 570 hours of early education that they are entitled to in order to be eligible.

Children become eligible for early education at 3 different points within an academic year. These are:

Child has 3rd birthday	Eligible to a 3 year old place from	When should the child be in the setting to receive EYPP funding
Up to and including 31 st August	Autumn term 1 st Sept – 31 st Dec	Before Census and should be recorded on autumn Headcount As general guidance census will be the first Thursday in October
Up to and including 31 st December	Spring Term 1 st January – 31 st March	Before census and should be recorded on spring Headcount As general guidance census will be the 3 rd Thursday in January
Up to and including 31 st March	Summer Term 1 st April – mid July* *Please note as the Easter holidays move within the calendar, a child would take up a place in the Summer term after the Easter holidays.	Before census and should be recorded on spring Headcount As general guidance census is be the third Thursday in May

What are the eligibility criteria?

Three and four year olds going to nursery may be eligible for EYPP if their family gets **one** of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run on, which is paid for four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

EYPP is also available if a child has been in local authority care for at least one day or more, or was adopted from care in England or Wales, or left care under a special guardianship order, previously known as a residence order.

A sample EYPP application form can be downloaded.

How can settings identify eligible children?

Early years providers can identify eligible children by talking to their parents and getting **them** to complete an EYPP application form. Please do not return completed forms to TFC unless the children has been looked after.

Are children that have previously had a free 2 year old place entitled to EYPP?

Whilst the majority of children will be entitled to EYPP if they have been entitled to a free 2 year old place, if the parent or carer is receiving Working Tax Credit they would not be entitled unless they are receiving it as Working Tax Credit run on for 4 weeks.

How does EYPP link with Free School Meals?

If a child is entitled to EYPP and they attend for early education in a nursery school or nursery class they may also be entitled to Free School Meals if the child attends for early education before and after lunch (this does not include the Extended Entitlement (30 Hours). Parents wishing to claim Free School Meals will also be required to complete an online application for free school meals. This can be made online on the Family Portal <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/families/free-school-meals>

How can EYPP be claimed?

Application forms should be completed by the parent or carer with the setting. It is important that the setting has the parent or carers consent. It is the parent or carer's right to refuse to complete an application. It is suggested that when the application is completed that the details of both carer's are completed if the family is a two parent family. In some instances one partner will be claiming the benefits for the family. Providing both parent's or carer's details will provide the best chance of confirming eligibility. Completed applications should be kept and the information added and submitted as part of a Headcount task. Please see Headcount user guide.

What happens if the child is applying using the Looked-After criteria?

If the parent or carer has submitted the application as the child is or has been looked after then the completed application form should be returned securely to Together for Children to be checked and a manual check will be added to the system. However, the setting should also submit the child and carer's details as part of a Headcount task.

How often can it be claimed?

Once a child is identified as eligible for EYPP, they are eligible until they move into Reception and full time education. As we are able to review previously submitted information any newly eligible children identified will be paid in the next term.

How will I find out if children are eligible?

When the headcount tasks have been submitted all applications will be submitted to the DfE Eligibility Checking Service. Any eligible children will be identified and recorded on CAPITA, Together for Children's information management system. Following this process a report will be available to settings identifying all children who have been submitted for a check and the outcome. The reason for eligibility will also be shown as this is required for the January census return to the Department of Education. When a task is issued via the Provider Portal, any eligible children will also be flagged with  in the funding column when viewing a list of children for your setting.

What could EYPP be used for?

Ofsted may as part of an inspection visit ask about EYPP and how it is used in the setting. The Early Education website has more information about using EYPP to support children's learning <https://www.early-education.org.uk/search/node/eypp>

What happens if a child stays on in an early years provision rather than joining a school reception class? Are they still eligible for EYPP?

If a child is still receiving the early education entitlement (i.e. the 15 hours) and they meet the other criteria, they would still be eligible for the EYPP.

What happens if a child moves provision part way through a term?

The new setting would receive the funding in the next term if the child is still eligible.

Who should I contact with any queries about EYPP?

Please contact Sophie Maddison Tel: 0191 561 2612 or by emailing FIS@togetherforchildren.org.uk