



Department
for Education

DfE Early Education and Childcare Provider Roadshow

London Region
11 February 2025



Department
for Education



Agenda

10:00 – 10:30	Registration
10:30 – 10:55	Welcome and intro
10:55 – 11:15	Overview and update from DfE
11:15 – 12:00	Information and roundtable session 1
12:00 - 12:15	Break and networking
12:15 – 13:00	Information and roundtable session 2
13:00 – 13:50	Lunch and networking
13:50 – 14:35	DfE information and roundtable discussion session 3
14:35 – 15:00	NDNA Maths Champions session
15:00 – 15:10	Wrap up and close

Purpose of today

The Department for Education is running a series of events for group-based early education and childcare setting leaders who have an interest in shaping early years and childcare policy and delivery.

This event will:



- Give you opportunity to find out the latest on government's early education and childcare policy and our ambitions, plans and progress on the Prime Minister's drive to give all children the Best Start in Life.



- Explain how these different areas of early education and childcare policy and delivery work, and what we are doing to support the sector.



- Help government shape and manage national and local implementation by hearing your experiences and insights, and the opportunities and challenges you face delivering early education and childcare and expanding your provision .



You said, we did...

At the heart of these roadshows is collecting your views, experiences and ideas. We are using those, along with input from our other range of sources, to inform decisions and advice. For example, in roadshows so far...

You said...	And we...
Resources to support you develop your businesses to help expand provision.	Childcare Works just launched two provider toolkits, aimed at all childcare providers. These can be found on the Childcare Works HUB , alongside best practice tools and resources to help with business specific planning. We continue to gather feedback and requested additions through roadshows and Childcare Works events.
Clearer SENIF guidance to help secure more funding for early years.	Our updated 2025-26 operational guidance provides additional details for local authorities to use when managing their SENIF.
Communications to parents should reach providers in advance and be clearer about the actual offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Specific information for providers for the opening of the 9mo old code application window on 12 May distributed to providers via membership organisations.- Updated Childcare Choices website with more info and are clearer about the offer in parent-facing comms- Updated toolkit with key info and resources sent out to providers before application deadlines
More direct methods of communication from DfE.	We are developing a mechanism to communicate directly with providers.
Earlier notification of funding rates from Local Authorities to enable planning	For 2025-26, we have announced a new expectation that local authorities communicate provider level funding rates by 28 February (bringing this date forward from 31 March).
Obtaining planning permission can be time-consuming and burdensome	Worked with MHCLG to update the guidance to local planning authorities, so they have to give greater weight and support to applications from early years providers, in the same way they have to with schools.



Department for Education Overview
Harjit Athwal and Jo Mackie - Deputy Directors

This Government are putting children at the forefront of their vision

In his ***Plan for Change***, the Prime Minister set out his five missions for government:

- Kickstart economic growth
- Build an NHS fit for the future
- Safer streets
- **Break down the barriers to opportunity**
- Make Britain a clean energy superpower

At the heart of the Opportunity mission is the **giving children the Best Start in Life** pillar, with a target to ensure 75% of children reach a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage assessment by 2028.

To support the sector to achieve this, government is working to:

- Improve access to early education and childcare to roll out expanded government-funded childcare
- Reform training and support for the workforce to drive up standards
- Strengthen and join up family services

Over the coming months we will be engaging with the sector to develop our plan for giving children the best start in life.



We are delivering a major expansion of childcare provision in England



We are expanding government funded childcare entitlements so that **from September 2025, eligible working parents can access 30 hours a week of early education and childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they start school.** We are rolling this out in stages to ensure enough supply in the system:

April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15hrs for eligible working parents of 2-year-olds introduced• Invest £400m into 3/4yo and 2yo funding rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sept 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National wraparound support begins• 15hrs for eligible working parents of children 9 months plus introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sept 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30hrs for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to primary school age introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sept 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All parents of primary school aged children who need it can access 8am-6pm wraparound provision	<input type="checkbox"/>

This government is committed to reforming early education and childcare in England (1)

Building an early education and childcare system that works for the sector, children and parents, setting every child on the journey to improved life chances and giving them the best start in life through:

Affordable early education and childcare

- Rolling out the new childcare entitlements by September 2025.
- With over 320,000 additional parents now accessing a place.
- Providing over £8bn for the early years entitlements in 2025-26 – a £2bn (over 30%) increase compared to 2024-25

Available and accessible early education and childcare

- new nursery places by upgrading space in primary schools.
- free breakfast clubs in every primary school.
- more flexibility to childminders to work with more people and spend more time working from non-domestic premises.



This government is committed to reforming early education and childcare in England (2)

High quality early education and childcare which supports children to achieve and thrive

- 75% children reach a good level of development by 2028.
- extending the funding for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention.
- driving up standards in early maths education.
- replacing Ofsted single headline grades.

Supporting, growing and promoting the brilliant early years workforce

- Recognising the workforce for your skilled and important work.
- Bolstering recruitment through the marketing campaign.
- resetting sector engagement to improve childcare together.

And continuing to fund councils to create a network of Family Hubs to help break down the barriers to opportunity for children.



Government funding has been significantly increased to deliver the entitlements

To secure the future sustainability of the early years sector and tackling the challenges it is facing, government is providing:

- Over £8bn in 2025-26 - a **30%** increase compared to **2024-25** as we roll out the expansion of the entitlements.
- Hourly rates vary between local authorities reflecting the different communities they serve – in 2025-26, all local authorities will receive:
 - at least **£5.71** per hour up to **£9.23** for their 3- and 4-year-old rate,
 - at least **£7.23** per hour up to **£12.43** for their 2-year-old rate,
 - and at least **£9.76** per hour up to **£17.44** for their 9 months to 2-year-old rate.
- Increasing the early years pupil premium by over **45%** - from **68p** per hour in 2024-25 to **£1** per hour in 2025-26, equivalent to up to **£570** per eligible child per year.
- **£75 million** expansion grant to support the sector to deliver the final phase of expanded childcare entitlements.
- **£15 million** capital funding in 2025-26 for school-based nurseries.



Everyone who needs it must be able to access early education and childcare

Working parents must meet the eligibility criteria for the new entitlements

- Work the equivalent of 16 hours a week at National Minimum or Living Wage of £183 per week and less than £100,000 per year.

Disadvantage

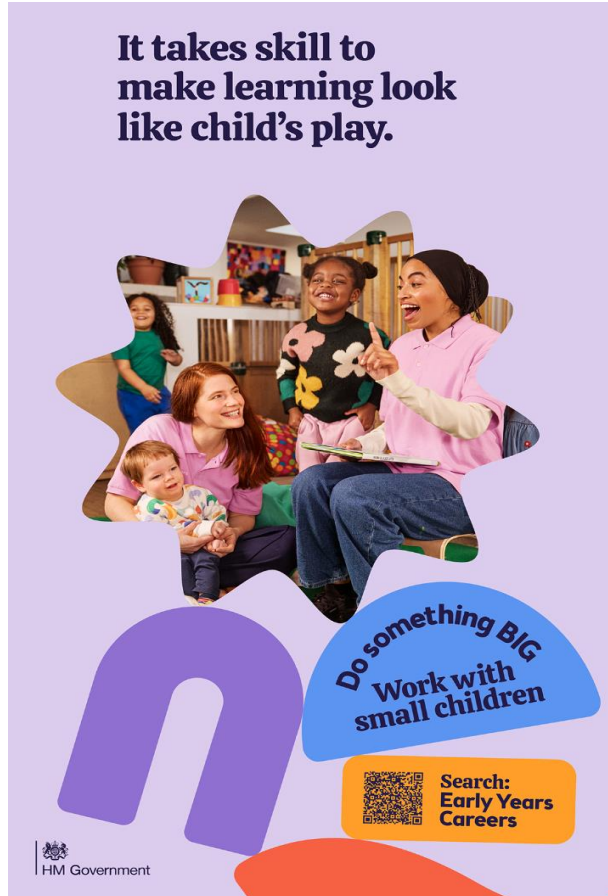
- All parents of 3 and 4-year-olds remain eligible for 15 hours free early education for their child, regardless of income.
- Families of 2-year-olds receiving some forms of additional support are eligible for 15 hours of early education and childcare.
- Changes to Universal Credit in the March 2023 Spring Budget.

SEND

- All children with SEND should be able to access their entitled hours where their needs are nurtured to give them the best start in life.
- A £1 billion uplift in high needs funding in financial year 2025-26.
- A new SEND support package for practitioners.



We are supporting the sector to grow the workforce...



Supporting providers to attract talented staff and childminders to join the workforce:

- 'Do something BIG' campaign to raise awareness and understanding of early years careers.
- A dedicated campaign website which helps prospective early years educators to explore entry routes and job opportunities.
- A pilot to test whether financial incentives boost recruitment.
- Promoting early years careers with the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus and Careers & Enterprise Company.
- Childminder Start-up Grant.
- New childminder flexibilities

Maximising the skills pipeline:

- Skills Bootcamps.
- Funding support for Early Years Initial Teacher Training and NPQEYL
- New EY Teacher Degree Apprenticeship standard published in Jan 2025, offering a new undergraduate route to achieving Early Years Teacher Status

Increased flexibilities to utilise skills and reduce burdens:

- Updated EYFS framework with greater staffing flexibilities.
- New experienced-based route for suitable early years staff.
- Developing a new Check an Early Years Qualification service to help managers check the approval status of qualifications held by prospective and existing employees, saving them time and increasing confidence in having sufficient appropriately-qualified staff ahead of Sept '25.

Projected additional staff needed (above the 31 Dec 2023 baseline)

April 2024	0
September 2024	+6,000 (+1.6%)
September 2025	+35,000 (+10%)

... and supporting educators and settings with training and tailored support

- **Early Years Education Recovery Programme** with a package of training and tailored support for the early years workforce.
- **Stronger Practice Hubs** support settings by establishing strong local networks and sharing accessible information on evidence-based practice with early years practitioners.
- **Early years child development online training.**
- Continued funded support for the 11,100 schools registered for the **Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)** programme.
- New **SEND training and assessment** guidance and a **new module** on supporting individual differences and needs.



We are growing school-based nursery places, using spare space in primary-phase schools...

- Around half of schools already have some nursery provision on site.
- Unfilled primary places are forecast to increase over the next 3 years.
- Some of this free school space will be suitable for new nursery places

We are working to create 3,000 new or expanded school-based nurseries:

- State funded primary schools have applied for up to £150,000 of £15 million funding to create or expand on-site nurseries.
- Schools have told us how their provision will meet local demand.
- Bid outcomes will be announced in the Spring
- Insights from phase 1 to help shape the next phase



...and are growing the number of primary school wraparound places and free breakfast clubs

Before and after school wraparound childcare places for primary school aged children:

- New places already available.
- More places will become available from January 2025.
- Newly appointed wraparound lead in every local authority.

Free breakfast for all primary children:

- Investment will triple to over £30 million in 25-26.
- This will help children be ready to learn and help improvements to behaviour, attendance and attainment.
- From April 2025, up to 750 state-funded schools with primary aged pupils will begin delivering free breakfast clubs as part of a test and learn phase.
- Guidance was published in January about the early adopter scheme.



[Home](#) > [Education, training and skills](#) > [Running and managing a school](#) > [School food, accom](#)

Guidance

Breakfast clubs early adopter guidance for schools and trusts in England

Guidance explaining the role of schools taking part in the breakfast clubs early adopter programme.

From: [Department for Education](#)

Published 16 January 2025



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Roundtable and information sessions

11:15 – 12:00: Session 1

12:15 – 13:00: Session 2

13:50 – 14:35: Session 3

Tables:

1. Being ready to provide expanded childcare places in September 2025
2. The government-funded childcare entitlements system
3. How the early education and childcare funding system works
4. Providing school aged childcare (Wraparound and Breakfast Clubs)
5. Early education for children with SEND
6. Building the early education and childcare workforce with the right qualifications
7. Supporting quality practice in early education



“Being involved in the Maths Champions programme has been an amazing experience and one which will impact on the children and staff for years to come.”

PVI Pre-school



<https://ndna.org.uk/champions-programmes/maths-champions-early-years-maths-training/>



Maths Champions
FREE Early Years Maths Training

Thank you again for joining us today

Please use this QR code to tell us what you thought of the event:



We want you to showcase the pivotal role of the early years and childcare workforce. To get involved, please contact EarlyYears.CAREERS@education.gov.uk

We want parents who are interested in being a voice for parents either as a case study or being part of a parent focused group. Email childcare.choices@education.gov.uk

