

## EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

### Important dates and deadlines for nine month to four year old funding

1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

| MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS/WEEKS                                                   | FUNDING PERIOD                        |                                      |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                 | <u>SUMMER 2026</u><br>01 Apr - 31 Aug | <u>AUTUMN 2026</u><br>01 Sep -31 Dec | <u>SPRING 2027</u><br>01 Jan-31 Mar |
| Maximum number of funded hours if taken 'Term Time Only'                        | 195                                   | 210                                  | 165                                 |
| Maximum number of funded weeks if taken 'Term Time' (i.e. over 38wks)           | 13 weeks                              | 14 weeks                             | 11 weeks                            |
| Maximum number of funded weeks if taken 'Stretched' (i.e. over more than 38wks) | 22 weeks                              | 17 weeks                             | 13 weeks                            |

| AGE OF CHILD                       | FUNDING PERIOD                        |                                       |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                    | <u>SUMMER 2026</u><br>01 Apr - 31 Aug | <u>AUTUMN 2026</u><br>01 Sep - 31 Dec | <u>SPRING 2027</u><br>01 Jan - 31 Mar |
| 9 month to 23 months Born between: | 01-Apr-2024<br>and<br>30-Jun-2025     | 01-Sep-2024<br>and<br>30-Nov-2025     | 01-Jan-2025<br>and<br>31-Mar-2026     |
| 2 Year Old Born between:           | 01-Apr-2023<br>and<br>31-Mar-2024     | 01-Sep-2023<br>and<br>31-Aug-2024     | 01-Jan-2024<br>and<br>31-Dec-2024     |
| 3 Year Old Born between:           | 01-Apr-2022<br>and<br>31-Mar-2023     | 01-Sep-2022<br>and<br>31-Aug-2023     | 01-Jan-2023<br>and<br>31-Dec-2023     |
| 4 Year Old Born between:           | 01-Apr-2021<br>and<br>31-Mar-2022     | 01-Sep-2021<br>and<br>31-Aug-2022     | 01-Jan-2022<br>and<br>31-Dec-2022     |

| EARLY YEARS CENSUS                   | FUNDING PERIOD                        |                                       |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                      | <u>SUMMER 2026</u><br>01 Apr - 31 Aug | <u>AUTUMN 2026</u><br>01 Sep - 31 Dec | <u>SPRING 2027</u><br>01 Jan - 31 Mar |
| Census Date:                         | Thursday 21 May                       | Thursday 01 Oct                       | Thursday 21 Jan                       |
| Census Week                          | Mon 18 May to<br>Fri 22 May           | Mon 28 Sept to<br>Fri 02 Oct          | Mon 18 Jan to<br>Fri 22 Jan           |
| Final Date for Headcount Submission: | Fri 22 May                            | Fri 02 Oct                            | Friday 22 Jan                         |

NB: Data supplied must be based on the week including headcount date.

| DEADLINES                                                                                                                    | FUNDING PERIOD                       |                                      |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                              | SUMMER 2026<br>01 Apr - 31 Aug       | AUTUMN 2026<br>01 Sep - 31 Dec       | SPRING 2027<br>01 Jan - 31 Mar       |
| Actual Headcount Task made available from                                                                                    | Mon 16 Feb<br>to<br>Fri 27 Feb       | Mon 22 Jun<br>to<br>Fri 03 Jul       | Mon 26 Oct<br>to<br>Fri 06 Nov       |
| Adjustment period 1 Headcount task made available from                                                                       | Mon 11 May<br>to<br>Fri 22 May       | Mon 21 Sep<br>to<br>Fri 02 Oct       | Mon 11 Jan<br>to<br>Fri 22 Jan       |
| Adjustment period 2 Headcount task will be made available once the previous task has been completed. Final Deadline will be: | Fri 24 Jul                           | Fri 27 Nov                           | Fri 12 Mar                           |
| Actual Payment will be processed                                                                                             | During 1st week of<br>funding period | During 1st week of<br>funding period | During 1st week of<br>funding period |
| Final Payment will be processed                                                                                              | Final week of funding<br>period      | Final week of<br>funding period      | Final week of<br>funding period      |
| Working family eligibility codes issued between:                                                                             | 01 Jan and 31 Mar                    | 01 Apr and 31 Aug                    | 01 Sep and 31 Dec                    |
| Working family funding can be accessed from:                                                                                 | 01 Apr                               | 01 Sep                               | 01 Jan                               |

| SCHOOL TERMS                   | FUNDING PERIOD                        |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                | SUMMER 2026<br>01 Apr - 31 Aug        | AUTUMN 2026<br>01 Sep - 31 Dec | SPRING 2027<br>01 Jan - 31 Mar |
| Maintained Schools Term Starts | 13 Apr                                | 01 Sep                         | 04 Jan                         |
| Maintained Schools Half Term   | 25 May - 29 May                       | 26 Oct - 30 Oct                | 15 Feb - 19 Feb                |
| Maintained Schools Term Ends   | 22 Jul                                | 18 Dec                         | 25 Mar                         |
| Bank/Public holidays           | 03 Apr 04 May 31 Aug<br>06 Apr 25 May | 25 Dec<br>28 Dec               | 01 Jan                         |

Please note: All dates are subject to change.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** - Parental Declaration forms must be completed for all eligible nine month to four-year-old funded children. All forms must be fully completed, dated and signed by the parent prior to running eligibility checks for the working parent's entitlement and for audit purposes. Please ensure that where children are sharing their funding across more than one provider, their parents indicate on the form the number of hours they are using at each provider and whether they are universal, extended or expanded. A copy of the form can be found on the Traded Services website under early years resources - Funding. The Stretched offer should be calculated as follows: The maximum yearly entitlement of 570/1140 hours divided by the number of weeks the provision is open and providing funded hours e.g., 570/1140 hours ÷ **50** weeks = 11.4/22.8 hours per week. Weekly hours (11.4/22.8hrs) should then be claimed for each funding period e.g., summer = **21** weeks (239.4/478.8 hours), autumn = **16** weeks (182.4/364.8 hours), spring = **13** weeks (148.2/296.4 hours).

The eligibility checker on the Provider Portal should be used on a regular basis to track eligibility of working family codes.