



# **EAP Update on Early Years**

## **February 2023**

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# Early Years Update

# Spring 2023 – Government announces transformation reforms

- In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare for parents, children, the economy and women.
- By 2027 to 2028, this government will expect to be spending in excess of £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs.
- By September 2025, working parents will be able to claim 30 hours of free childcare a week, over 38 weeks of the year, all the way through from nine months up to their child starting school
- The DfE set out phased time lines to enable Local Authorities time to implement the changes

# Timescale of changes

## 1. **Changes to Early Year Funding:**

30 hours childcare for every child **over the age of 9 months with working parents/carers by September 2024**, where eligibility will match the existing 3 and 4 year old 30 hours offer

## 2. **Changes to 'Wrap around Care':** Local authorities and schools will be given more funding to set up what's known as 'wraparound care' this funding is to support all primary schools in offering wrap around care – funding available to NNC from 2023- 2026 £1,821,402.34 to support implementation and delivery

## 3. **Changes to Early Years Staff Ratios:** From September 2023, one member of staff allowed to allowed to look after five 2 year olds, up from four 2 year olds which is the current rule.

## 4. **Changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS):** The DfE proposed changes to the EYFS framework to make it more practical for different types of EYFS providers. consultation to collect views of Local Authorities and Providers was conducted over the summer and a revised EYFS framework was issued to Childminders in December 2023

Age  
**3-4**  
years

**ALL PARENTS**

<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

**WORKING FAMILIES**

<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

Age  
**2**  
years

**FAMILIES RECEIVING SOME ADDITIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

**WORKING FAMILIES**

<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>
APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

Age  
**9-23**  
months

**WORKING FAMILIES**

<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>
SEP 2024	SEP 2025

\*38 weeks a year. Eligibility criteria apply. Providers may ask for additional charges.

**What does this mean?**

# 30 hours free funding for every child over the age of 9 months

Eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds already get 30 hours a week of free childcare. The increased offer will be rolled out in stages to allow childcare providers time to be able to implement the changes ensuring that places that are needed are available across each Local Authority (LA) when the offers are introduced.

- I. From April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds will be able to access up to 15 hours of free childcare
  - II. From September 2024, up to 15 hours of free childcare will be extended to offer children from the age of 9 months for eligible working parents
  - III. From September 2025, working parents of children aged nine months and upwards will be entitled to up to 30 hours free childcare per week right up to their child starting school.
- As per the existing offer, depending on provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the (during term time) or up to 52 weeks if fewer hours are used per week

# Introduction of enhanced Wrap around care

- The expectation is by September 2026, most primary schools will be able to provide their own before and after school care. Wrap around care is outside of normal school hours, so that parents/carers of school age children can access childcare in their local area from 8am 6pm. This could include breakfast clubs and after school clubs.
- Schools and local authorities will receive £289m in funding for a 'pathfinder' to increase the supply of wrap around care so that parents/carers of primary school age children can drop their children off between 8am and 6pm tackling the barriers to working caused by limited availability of wrap around care
- The amount of funding allocated to NNC for 2023-2026 £1,821,402.34



# Changes to ratios of staff

- From September 2023, one member of staff will be allowed to look after five 2 year olds, up from four 2 year olds which is the current rule. DfE are increasing the number of children a member of staff can look after to assist with the need for new childcare places when the funding offer is enhanced to include children from 9 months old.
- This will bring England in line with Scotland and other comparable countries. These changes to ratios are optional and intended to give providers more flexibility in how they run their businesses as well as increase capacity in a setting

# Risks and issues

## Issues and risks

1. May require additional providers to deliver the wider offer, whilst we have no sufficiency issues at present may present in future
2. Facilitating delivery of provision for 9 months onwards, existing providers may not have capacity, no capital funding is available and most of our providers rent premises
3. Expansion of 2 year old offer is not equitable it still leaves some of our children without access to the offer
4. Wrap around care, early indications not all schools will want to provide the offer