

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Childcare Providers

The government announced in March 2014 that they intend to introduce an Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for three and four year olds starting from April 2015. This policy is part of the government's objective to close the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers.

The government issued a consultation on this policy in June and their response was published on 23 October, 2014 further information can be found through the [Gov website](#).

What do I need to do as a childcare provider?

You need to identify eligible children and gain parents consent to apply for the funding. You will need to demonstrate to OFSTED that you have used the allocated funding to improve outcomes for each child eligible.

Why is EYPP being introduced?

To close the gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers by providing funding to early years providers to help them raise the quality of their provision. Evidence produced in a recent report by the Sutton Trust highlights a nineteen month school readiness gap between less advantaged children and their more advantaged peers by the age of five.

This report can be found through the [Sutton Trust website](#).

What is the EYPP criteria?

Any three or four year old receiving Nursery Education Funding (NEF) with any setting will be eligible if their parents are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition, a child will be eligible if they:

- have been looked after by the local authority for at least one day
- have been adopted from care
- have left care through special guardianship

- are subject to a child arrangement order.

How much money is available for eligible children?

Just over £300 per year for each eligible child on 15 hour places. The confirmed hourly rate is 53 pence. Funding will be allocated to providers based on the number of free hours each child attends. This funding will be additional to NEF and deprivation supplements settings may receive.

How will eligible families be identified? How will verification work?

Childcare providers have a key role in discussing EYPP with parents to identify those children potentially eligible.

Childcare providers are encouraged to register to use the online headcount portal which will feature a section for EYPP. Eligibility checking will be undertaken by SCC and providers will be informed of funding amount for individual children. Non-portal users should complete the early years pupil premium form.

Providers may wish to use the green and orange forms to promote EYPP to parents and collect the key details they need for the application.

How many children might be eligible in our setting?

If you take children as part of the Talking 2's programme you can look at the numbers of children you offered places for in 2013-14 to provide an indication and apply that percentage to three and four year olds in your setting (prior to September 2014, the 20% criteria for Think2 was the same as for free school meals (FSM) – this is the core criteria for EYPP). You could also look at your local primary school's FSM percentage. However, you should bear in mind that FSM take up is different to FSM eligibility and in addition that schools now offer universal free school meals for five to seven year olds. Further information about the Free School Meals percentages can be found through the [Education website](#).

How should providers utilise EYPP?

It will be down to each individual provider to decide how to utilise EYPP in order to ensure best outcomes for the children in their care. The consultation document from Department for Education (DfE) suggests providers may choose to employ graduate level staff, early years teachers or pool funding with other providers to jointly schedule training or arrange additional support. At the EYPP national conference on 23 October, a focus on three core elements was presented as key focus areas:

- Children's oral language
- Self regulation
- Engagement with parents

What is the role of providers? What will be expected of us?

DfE are clear that providers will be expected to evidence outcomes as a result of the funding allocated and this will be assessed as part of the OFSTED inspection. Providers will need to track progress of children so impact can be measured. OFSTED are clear however that EYPP will form part of their existing inspection framework. Providers should ensure they can demonstrate:

- Effective Leadership & Management
- How well the provision meets the needs of the range of children in attendance.

From 2016 the census will collect information on numbers of children receiving the EYPP at each setting.

Settings may be required to make available/show evidence of spend in relation to EYPP.

What is the role of Telford & Wrekin Council in relation to EYPP?

We want to ensure that providers are clear about this new policy and have issued these FAQs to start the flow of communication. We are committed in ensuring you understand what will be expected of you and have strategies and ideas on how to utilise funding to make a difference

Local authorities will be monitored on how many children are funded through EYPP and will have to submit a mandatory mid-year return to DfE based on participation. It's vital therefore that we work together to ensure we maximise this funding opportunity to close the gap.

Who can I contact to find out more?

Please contact Stacy Picken on 01952 385423 or email talkingchildcare@telford.gov.uk