

**Early Years Funding Useful Dates  
2026/27**

		Summer Term 2026			Autumn Term 2026			Spring Term 2027		
		Eligible Dates of Birth	Maximum hours per week	Maximum hours per term	Eligible Dates of Birth	Maximum hours per week	Maximum hours per term	Eligible Dates of Birth	Maximum hours per week	Maximum hours per term
1	<b>Under 2 year olds</b>	1/4/2024 to 30/6/2025	30	390	1/9/2024 to 30/11/2025	30	420	1/1/2025 to 31/03/2026	30	330
2a	<b>2 year olds FRAS</b>	1/4/2023 to 31/3/2024	15	195	1/9/2023 to 31/8/2024	15	210	1/1/2024 to 31/12/2024	15	165
2b	<b>2 year olds Working parent</b>	1/4/2023 to 31/3/2024	30	390	1/9/2023 to 31/8/2024	30	420	1/1/2024 to 31/12/2024	30	330
3a	<b>3&amp;4 year old Universal only</b>	1/4/2021 to 31/3/2023	15	195	1/9/2021 to 31/8/2023	15	210	1/1/2022 to 31/12/2023	15	165
3b	<b>3&amp;4 year old Working parent</b>	1/4/2021 to 31/3/2023	30	390	1/9/2021 to 31/8/2023	30	420	1/1/2022 to 31/12/2023	30	330
4	<b>Headcount week</b>	18th to 22nd May 2026			28th September- 2nd October 2026			18th to 22nd January 2027		
5	<b>Funded Term Dates</b>	13/4/2026 to 20/7/2026			7/9/2026 to 18/12/2026			4/1/2027 to 19/3/2027 (includes half term)		
6	<b>Number of funded weeks (determined by DfE)</b>	13			14			11		
7	<b>Stretched Term Dates</b>	1/4/2026 to 4/9/2026			1/9/2026 to 1/1/2027			1/1/2027 to 2/4/2027		
8	<b>Maximum number of Stretched weeks</b>	23			18			13		
9	<b>NYC School Term Dates</b>	13/4/2026 to 20/7/2026			7/9/2026 to 18/12/2026			4/1/2027 to 19/3/2027		
10	<b>Half Term Dates</b>	25/5/2026 to 29/5/2026			26/10/2026 to 30/10/2026			8/2/2027 to 12/2/2027		

**Explanation of the points 1-10 in the table above**

<b>1 to 3b</b>	Eligible dates of birth are set by government. Children will be eligible from the beginning of the term after they have reached the required age. For example; children born in the period 1st January to 31st March will become eligible for a funded place on 1st April. The maximum funded hours payable, children can access term time only or stretched. If 2 year old children are eligible for FRAS and Working parent entitlement they can only access a maximum of 30 hours per week in total.
4	Headcount week - claims can only be made for children who are registered and attending the provision during this week and <b>valid parental agreement must be in place</b> .
5	Suggested Funded Term Dates for providers who follow a term time only model. All providers can set their own funded period as long as they endeavour to offer the full 38 week entitlement for the financial year.
6	Number of funded weeks - The Department for Education gives the local authority funding for 38 weeks in a financial year. The funded year is April to March. Where a provider is open for longer than the termly funded weeks - the provider should use their discretion on what they do, for example; parents can be invoiced for anything over and above the funded entitlement. Term time only providers are expected to decide how to manage the difference between term time weeks and funded weeks. A shortfall in hours can be managed by stretching the funded hours and invoicing the parent for the additional hours, or close on the non-funded weeks. Please make parents aware of your decision well in advance of each term starting.
7 & 8	Stretched provision dates and weeks; these are the maximum dates and number of weeks that a child's termly funded hours can be stretched within each term and may include part weeks where the term starts or ends mid week. Each provider determines whether to offer stretched funding and chooses the number of weeks they are stretching the funding within the prescribed dates. The parental agreement must detail the stretched offer and you must indicate that the child is accessing a stretched offer on the Provider Portal.
9	NYC School term dates are the dates when maintained schools are open. Schools will identify the nominated training days within these dates.
10	Half Term Dates are the dates when maintained schools will be closed.