



Northumberland

County Council

Funding Models for the Free Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4yr olds

Ways to take funded entitlement

Funding can be delivered via different models (subject to availability at your chosen provider). Models differ due to various setting types and their hours of operating. All funded hours **MUST** be documented and claimed via a [parent declaration form](#) at **each** provider for **all** entitlements.

The maximum annual entitlement for children accessing 15 hours (2 year old entitlement and universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement) is 570 hours.

The maximum annual entitlement for children accessing 30 hours (extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds) is 1140 hours.

The following applies to all entitlements.

1. Term Time Model – For families taking their free early years entitlement at a provider over 38 weeks

30 hours 38 weeks of the year. Any additional hours to this would be paid for at a rate agreed with provider.

2. Stretched Entitlement Models – For families taking their free early years entitlement at a provider over more than 38 weeks

A stretched model can be offered by providers that are open all year; models can vary across the County and should be discussed with your preferred provider. Any additional hours would be paid for at a rate agreed with provider.

To provide a weekly allocation of hours via stretched entitlement models, the maximum amount of hours required annually (maximum 1140) should be divided by the agreed weeks that the extended entitlement is to be taken over annually (up to a maximum of 52 weeks). Please see examples below, a ready reckoner is available from childcare providers.

For example

48 week model

(For children attending 1140 hours or less at a setting open 48 weeks usually a childminder)

Funding can be stretched at a maximum of 1140 hours divided by 48 weeks, taking a maximum of 23.75 hours per week. Providers may charge for additional, optional extras such as lunches and snacks but these should be agreed prior to taking up a place. Parents/carers should be clearly invoiced for any additional charges. The entitlement is entirely free and does not have a monetary value and therefore **MUST** not be deducted from any additional hours.

51 week model

(For children attending 1140 hours or less at a setting open 51 weeks per year such as a day nursery)

Funding can be stretched at a maximum of 1140 hours divided by 51 weeks, taking a maximum of 22.8 hours per week. Providers may charge for additional, optional extras such as lunches and snacks but these should be agreed prior to taking up a place. Parents/carers should be clearly invoiced for any additional charges. The entitlement is entirely free and does not have a monetary value and therefore **MUST** not be deducted from any additional hours.

52 week model

(For children attending 1140 hours or less at a setting open 52 weeks per year such as a day nursery)

Funding can be stretched at a maximum of 1140 hours divided by 52 weeks, taking a maximum of 22 hours per week. Providers may charge for additional, optional extras such as lunches and snacks but these should be agreed prior to taking up a place. Parents/carers should be clearly invoiced for any additional charges. The entitlement is entirely free and does not have a monetary value and therefore **MUST** not be deducted from any additional hours.

Pro rata funding

For children attending more than 1140 hours of childcare per year, where parents/carers are paying for additional hours and services, providers may offer pro rata arrangements across their billing period, so that parents/carers can receive a clear, fixed, monthly invoice. The entitlement is entirely free and does not have a monetary value and therefore **MUST** not be deducted from any additional hours.

Pro rata example

1140 free hours divided by 12 months = **95 free hours per month**

Parents/carers should be clearly invoiced for any additional hours and optional extras taken at the providers agreed charges. The entitlement is entirely free and does not have a monetary value and therefore **MUST** not be deducted from any additional hours.

Split/mixed model

15 hours term time only and 15 hours stretched entitlement.

Funding can be split between providers (no more than two sites in anyone day) and parents can mix term time only provision with the stretched entitlement as long as the maximum entitlement is not exceeded over the year.. Children must be present at both providers during headcount week in order for funding to be claimed. For example

Term time only provider - 10 hours x 38 weeks = 380 hours over 38 weeks at this provider

1140 hours (maximum annual entitlement) - 380 (hours used at term time only provider) = 760 hours remaining

Stretched entitlement provider - 760 hours remaining / 48 weeks = 15.8 hours per week over 48 weeks at this provider

Term time only provider - 15 hours x 38 weeks = 570 hours over 38 weeks at this provider

1140 hours (maximum annual entitlement) - 570 (hours used at term time only provider) = 570 hours remaining

Stretched entitlement provider - 570 hours remaining / 48 weeks = 11.9 hours per week over 48 weeks at this provider

If you are unable to find the flexibility you require, Northumberland Families Information Service can advise on other suitable childcare providers available. Please contact 0800 023 4440.