

FAQs

Can a child attend preschool/nursery after they are due to start school?

Yes – a child can defer or decelerate and attend a setting up until the term after they are 5 years old. The setting that the child attends will need to complete a form and submit it to [Services for Young Children](#) (SfYC) to receive payment of childcare.

What does deferment mean? Deferring school entry allows the child to begin school at a later date than September but still join their own age peer group. This could mean anything from missing one term to missing the whole of the Reception year and starting school in Year One. Social Workers should consult with the Virtual School and the child's school to ensure that the child's needs are met.

What does deceleration mean?

Summer born children can have a request made to be admitted to Year R in the September after they turn five - a year later than they would usually start school. You must get approval from the admission authority for each school you wish to apply for. One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another. The Social Worker must discuss any deceleration requests with the Virtual School team.

Can someone help me to choose a preschool or nursery?

Yes – before you make an application, the Virtual School are on hand to help with finding a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' setting for Looked After Children.

There is also advice on the [Hampshire County Council Website](#)

Any further questions?

virtualschool@hants.gov.uk

Additional Information and Guidance

Virtual School Website

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/virtual-school

Children and Families Toolkit for 30 hours

<https://int-www.hants.gov.uk/children-families-toolkit/search?q=30+hours+childcare&search>

Hampshire County Council – EYE funding for 2,3 and 4 year olds

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/childcare/payingforchildcare/freechildcare/eyefunding>

Search for Hampshire Childcare Services

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/family.page?familychannel=1>

What is?

2 year old funding and Early Years

Education Funding? (Information for Social Workers)

Free Early Years Education (EYE) funding for 2 year old Children in Care

This is a national scheme that allows 2 year old children in care to receive free early education from the term **after** their second birthday. This funding also applies to those children who have left care under an Adoption order, Special Guardianship order or a Child Arrangement order

The funding will be offered for up to 15 free early years education hours per week for 38 weeks, totalling 570 hours per year. You can also choose a childcare provider who is open for more than 38 weeks, and may be able to [“stretch” the free hours across your child’s funding year](#) to cover most school holidays.

Childcare providers that offer 2-year-old places will need to have an Ofsted rating of **‘Good’** or **‘Outstanding’** and/or have been assessed by Services for Young Children ([SfYC](#)) as meeting the standards required.

Free Early Years Education (EYE) funding for 3 and 4 year olds

Free Early Years Education places are available in Ofsted registered school nursery classes, state or private nursery schools (including independent schools), day nurseries, playgroups or pre-schools and childminders. They need to be approved by the local authority to deliver EYE. The entitlement to free Early Years Education starts in the funding period which follows the child's third birthday. [Children become entitled on 1 January, 1 April and 1 September.](#)



FACT

A Social Worker should apply for nursery and school places and make clear to the setting that the child is in care.

A place in a school nursery does not guarantee admission to school and Social Workers must apply for a place at the school if they want the child to transfer to the Reception class.

Questions to ask ?

Social Workers– what questions should you be asking to a preschool, nursery or childminder ?

- Is your setting rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted?
- Do you take Early Years Education (EYE) Funding?
- Have you had Looked After Children in this setting before?
- Do you have a Designated Lead for Children in Care in the setting? What are their contact details? When were they trained by Virtual School?
- Do you offer 'stretched' hours across the year or are you 'term time' only?
- What is your Special Education Needs offer? How do you best support children with SEND?
- What kind of Key Person system do you run? (will the child have the same 'key adult' caring for them and 'holding them in mind')
- Do you use electronic learning journeys or paper copies? (consider confidentiality and photographs)
- **During your visit:** Note the outside area and how the children can access it at all times; Look to see if most of the equipment is open ended...wooden blocks can be made into anything with some imagination... a wooden pirate ship will always be a wooden pirate ship...Do the staff make you feel welcome/have a friendly feel? Does the room have children's own work from their imagination displayed? Are there small spaces or dens for one or two children to use so that they can have their own space if needed?

What other funding is there?

30 hours funding

In some cases, additional funding can be agreed for those children in care who are 3&4 years old and placed with Foster families. There are criteria that need to be met including that the Foster carer (and partner if applicable) engages in paid work outside of their fostering role. The child's care plan needs to show a need to access extended hours and that meeting the child's needs are placed at the centre of the process and decision making.

An application form must be completed by the foster parent(s) and discussed and approved by both their Social Worker and the child's Social Worker. It is not anticipated that the working outside fostering will be suitable for a large number of foster parents of children under 5 but will probably be suitable mainly for kinship carers.

Information can be found through the [Children and Families Toolkit](#) on Hantsweb.

Early Years Pupil Premium(EYPP)

The purpose of the Early Years Pupil Premium funding (approx. £350 per year) is to ensure that children who are inexperienced make accelerated progress. In effect, EYPP is used to close the gap between the child's progress and that of their less disadvantaged peers. This is paid directly to the setting and is monitored through the Personal Education Plan (PEP)

Needs, Views, Priorities

How is the pupil doing in the setting?
Where are they in terms of progress & attainment?
What are their priority needs?
What are the views of the child, parent/carer, school, social worker?

Targets, Plan, Spending

Personal Education Plan is needs led, outcome focused with SMART targets.
EYPP is used to address plan and action.
Actions, support and interventions are delivered successfully.

Monitor, Record, Celebrate

Monitor Record & Celebrate Progress Success & Achievements