



FREE EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT
FOR THREE & FOUR
YEAR OLDS
Spring 2010

If you would like this information in a different format, for example: Braille, audio tape, large print, computer disk or community languages, please contact

The Family Information Service
Tel: 0845 129 7217

Children and Young People's Service
Bristol City Council
PO BOX 57
Bristol
BS99 7EB
Tel: 0845 129 7217
Email: askcyps@bristol.gov.uk

Free Early Education Entitlement

- is payable to providers to meet the cost of an early learning place for your child
- is for a maximum of 12.5 hours per week over a minimum of 3 days
- is for a maximum of 5 hours in any one day
- is available up to 38 weeks a year (Your provider will have been notified by Bristol City Council and will be able to tell you how many weeks they are eligible for funding each grant period)
- has a current value of £3.44 per hour

Grant Period	Date of grant period	Eligibility
Autumn	1 Sept-31 Dec	A child born between 1 April & 31 Aug will become eligible from 1 Sept until statutory school age.
Spring	1 Jan-31 March	A child born on or between 1 Sept and 31 Dec will become eligible from 1 Jan until statutory school age.
Summer	1 April-31 Aug	A child born on or between 1 Jan and 31 March will become eligible from 1 April until statutory school age.

Will my child benefit from the funding?

ALL children who will benefit:

- were born between 1st September 2005 and 31st December 2006
- are attending a pre-school, playgroup, nursery or accredited childminder, registered with Children and Young People's Service during the grant period
- are using a registered provider within Bristol

Information regarding the availability of grant for April 2010 onwards for parents of children who became three on or after 1st January 2010 will be available in February 2010

Parents of children attending the majority of Local Authority Nursery school's or classes will not be able to claim for any hours the child also attends a private or voluntary nursery/playgroup as the place allocated at the Local Authority nursery will be for a minimum of 12.5 hours.

There is no requirement for every provider to be open for 38 weeks a year but every provider must be open for a minimum of 33 weeks per year. If parents choose a provider which is open for less than 38 weeks, funding is not available for the remaining weeks if taken up at an alternative provider.

If the child is attending less than 12.5 hours when the claim is registered with the Local Authority, and subsequently increases the number of hours attended it will not be possible to claim grant for the additional hours in that grant period. If your child moves nurseries within Bristol you may change the number of hours your child claims at the new nursery according to what places are available, but once the claim is registered with the Local Authority, further changes cannot be made in that grant period.

It should be noted that if a child in receipt of grant leaves the pre-school/playgroup/nursery during the grant period, and starts to attend a different pre-school/playgroup/nursery, the child is still eligible to receive funding. If the new nursery is within Bristol Local Authority, parents must give the required notice in order for the funding to be transferred. If you move outside the Bristol area, your nursery has to return funding to Bristol Local Authority. Please contact your new provider or the new Local Authority for funding.

THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

The Family Information Service helpline can be contacted for free impartial information about early years and childcare services, family support services, leisure activities and parenting information.

Phone: 0845 129 7217

Mon & Fri 8.30am-4.30pm

Fax: 0117 914 2242

Tues, Weds Thurs 8.30am-6.00pm

E-mail: askcyps@bristol.gov.uk

178 Easton Road
Easton
Bristol
BS5 0ES

Or use **1BigDatabase** – the online directory providing information on all services available for families, children and young people aged 0 – 19 in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset. www.1bigdatabase.org.uk

