

Funded Early Education- a special update

RE: Early years funding this autumn term

On the 20th July 2020 the Department for Education announced its position on funding local authorities and childcare providers for the early years free entitlements for the 2020 autumn term. They have confirmed that they will fund childcare at the level they would have done before coronavirus, until the end of the year.

The guidance is available [here](#).

What this means for you

This means that if you are open, but caring for fewer children than you usually would be in the autumn term – as a result of low demand from parents or due to public health reasons – you can continue to be funded as if the COVID-19 pandemic were not happening. This gives another term of secure income to providers including nurseries and childminders who are open for the children who need them.

Slough Borough Council will continue to fund early years providers who are open and offering their usual entitlements places, at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We will also continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option to close, due to public health reasons.

However, the Government are very clear that providers who are closed from the 1st September 2020 for non-public health reasons, who have chosen not to reopen their provision or have decided to no longer offer Funded Early Education, will no longer be able to access the funding.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I will have more children in autumn 2020 than I had in autumn 2019- does this mean I won't get the additional funding?

A. *No, you will get the full entitlement if it is more than the autumn 2019 actuals.*

Q. Will I get higher monthly payments if my numbers of funded children increase?

A. *We would normally give an adjustment payment at year end, in March. However, if you are suffering from exceptional circumstances such as financial hardship we will look at increasing your monthly payments or giving an adjustment payment at the end of term. If this applies to you, please contact us by email to EarlyYears@slough.gov.uk as we treat this on a case by case basis.*

Q. I don't want to offer FEE any more. Can I still get the funding as I had children attending in autumn 2019?

A. *No. You must still be offering Funded Early Education to continue to receive funding*

Please contact the Early Years Finance Team on 01753 476554 or by email to EarlyYears@slough.gov.uk if you have any questions.