

The grant for three and four year olds is paid directly to the provider and is not transferable - parents cannot receive a refund of the grant funding.

The grant paid is based on a single headcount at the setting, normally taken the second week into each school term. The grant will be paid to the provider where the child is registered on this date. Any child moving to a different provider after this date will have to wait until the following term before another claim can be made on his or her behalf. If a child has a Local Authority school place and attends a private provider as well then the school place will take precedence since the Council cannot charge for its provision. In this instance no funding will be paid to the private provider, and the parent will have to pay for the cost of the place at the private provider.

Cross border arrangements

If you are a Bexley resident but choose to send your child to a provider in another borough, your child will still be eligible to a free place from the borough in which the provision is situated as long as the provider meets the eligibility criteria of registration with Ofsted and that Local Authority.

How do I apply for a place?

To apply for a place parents will need to contact the group(s) directly. Once a place has been offered the provider will apply for the grant on behalf of the child and no further action is necessary by the parent. The setting will then contact the Education & Community Services Finance Team who will make the necessary arrangements for funding **after** confirmation of eligibility of the provider has been obtained.

For further information please call the Bexley Family Information Service help line. Our information officers will be happy to assist you.

020 8303 7777 or text 07624 818336
or email us at
fis@bexley.gov.uk

Why not visit our website at
www.bexley.gov.uk/children

Bexley Family Information Service is an information provider only and therefore cannot recommend or endorse any childcare providers and does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/Graphics.

The reference to quote is
602557/10.11



Funding for 3 & 4 Year Olds

Bexley Family Information Service
Providing information on services for children
and young people
020 8303 7777
www.bexley.gov.uk/children

The London Borough of Bexley's Family Information Service is pleased to advise that all children in Bexley are eligible for an entitlement of 15 hours per week funded part-time pre-school, school nursery or daycare nursery place from the beginning of the term after their third birthday.

Places in settings are subject to availability and/or admissions requirements, and a parent may choose to take up fewer hours. It is up to the parent to state how many hours you would like to take up for your child and advise your chosen childcare provider or school accordingly.

This means that:

- Children aged three on or before 31st August are eligible from the autumn term.
- Children aged three on or before 31st December are eligible from the spring term.
- Children born after 31st March are eligible from the autumn term.

This entitlement is based on the childcare provider being registered with the London Borough of Bexley to receive Nursery Education Grant Funding.

The funded places are available in school nurseries, in pre-school playgroups, in daycare nurseries run by private, voluntary or independent organisations (also known as PVI providers) and also with accredited childminders who belong to the Bexley Childminding Network.

To be registered as a participating provider and to be able to offer a funded part-time place, all providers must meet the following conditions:

- They need to be able to offer 15 hours free flexible sessions a week for at least eleven weeks per term.*
*(Please see * for exceptions).*
- They must be registered with Ofsted and be inspected to demonstrate satisfactory adherence to the Statutory Framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage for care and educational provision.
- They must provide a programme of play and learning experiences based on the DfE recommended curriculum Early Years Foundation Stage.
- They must make arrangements to meet the special educational needs of any child placed with them.

**The only exceptions to being able to offer the full free entitlement is where it is not feasible to offer more because the provider is only open for part of the week or is over subscribed.*

Where a parent is unable to obtain the full 15 hours with one provider, they can claim the balance of the hours with another provider and the grant can be apportioned accordingly.

All registered providers are subject to regular Ofsted Inspection. Current Ofsted inspection reports are publicly available on www.ofsted.gov.uk and parents are advised to look at the report before deciding where to place their child.

PVI providers registered to receive the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) are not allowed to charge a top-up fee for the 15 hours, though they may make a charge for additional time and provision. The provider must make their charging policy clear when parents apply for a place.