

Early Education - Accessing a stretched offer

Entitlement

Each child's early learning place provides up to 15 hours a week of funded early education, usually over 38 weeks per year. This is the equivalent of up to 570 hours per year and is known as a 'standard offer'.

Some private day nurseries, childminders and other settings can offer full day care and to allow flexibility to families can offer to 'stretch' the child's funded early learning place to up to 51 weeks of the year. This reduces the weekly hours your child can access to 11 hours per week.

Accessing your child's maximum hours each year

If a child changes from one type of offer (standard or stretched) to another offer part way through the financial year (April to March), this can lead to the child accessing over the maximum entitlement of 570 hours. It is therefore important to ensure that you take this into consideration prior to choosing how to access your child's funded place.

How to ensure you don't access more than your child's annual entitlement

If a child moves from a stretched offer in the summer term to a standard offer in a term time only setting from September then you will access more hours than the entitlement. If you want your child to continue their place up until the end of August before moving to a term time offer, you can prevent exceeding your hours by paying for any hours over and above 180 across the summer term.

Alternatively you can discuss your child's early learning place to finish earlier in the term with your chosen setting.

Where a child accesses more than the maximum entitlement

Where it is identified that a child has exceeded the maximum entitlement of 570 hours per year your child's current setting will be advised. This will usually happen in the spring term (between January and March of each year).

You will be liable for any additional hours your child accesses over and above the 570 hours per year in each financial year (or 1140 hours where entitled to the extended entitlement).

Further information

If you would like further details on the early years entitlements or have any questions, please contact the FiND helpline on 0800 587 7500 or email find@redbridge.gov.uk.