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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**PROVISION FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE
IN ENGLAND: JANUARY 2001 (Provisional Estimates)****Introduction**

This Statistical First Release contains provisional estimates of numbers of children under five years of age in the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors in England in January 2001. It contains information on the numbers of children under five taking up funded places in the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors. And, as well as updating the information contained in SFR 23/2000 to January 2001, it contains information for previous years from 1997, where this is available.

KEY POINTS

Three year olds (Table 2)

- The number of three year olds taking up early years education places funded by the nursery education grant in the private and voluntary sectors increased from 37,000 or 6% of the three year old population in January 2000 to 116,900 or 19% in January 2001, an increase of almost 80,000 three year olds.
- The total number of three year olds taking up early years education places in the private and voluntary sectors also increased, from 268,800 or 44% of the three year old population in January 2000 to 285,100 or 47% in January 2001, an increase of over 16,000 three year olds.
- The number of three year olds taking up early years education places funded by the nursery education grant in the independent sector increased from 2,500 or less than 0.5% of the three year old population in January 2000 to 6,100 or 1% in January 2001.
- Over all providers, the total number of three year olds increased from 526,900 or 86% of the three year old population in January 2000 to 541,300 or 89% in January 2001; the number funded by nursery education grant or in maintained schools increased from 271,700 or 44% of the three year old population in January 2000 to 352,100 or 58% in January 2001.

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Table 1: Number of three and four year olds by type of early years education provider England January 2000-2001 (provisional estimates)

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Table 4: Number of three and four year olds in maintained nursery, primary, special and independent schools England January 1997-2001 (provisional estimates)

These tables will be available from 16 May on the DfEE website: www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Provisional Estimates

1. This SFR contains provisional estimates that may be subject to revision. In particular, figures for private and voluntary providers and three and four year olds taking up funded places for independent schools, which are derived from the Early Years Census, may be based on fewer than all providers registered with Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships.

2. Further figures will be published in the Statistical Bulletin 'Provision For Children Under Five Years of Age in January 2001' in October 2001.

Sources

3. Two main sources of information were used to produce the figures in this SFR:

Annual Schools Census

ASC collects information about three and four year olds in the maintained and independent sectors in January each year.

Early Years Census

EYC collects information about three and four year olds in the private, voluntary and independent sectors from all providers registered with EYDCPs in January each year. Providers registered with EYDCPs receive Nursery Education Grant for eligible three and four year olds.

Note that the number of three and four year olds in independent schools is derived from ASC and the number of three and four year olds in places funded by NEG in independent schools from EYC.

Age of pupils

4. For January 2001, three year olds are born between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 1997; four year olds are born between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 1996.

Population Estimates

5. Figures for percentage of population are calculated using population estimates derived from mid-year estimates and projections provided by Office for National Statistics.

Nursery classes

6. Nursery classes are classes in maintained primary schools that have been designated as nursery classes. They normally include amongst their staff at least one qualified nursery assistant in addition to a qualified teacher. January 2001 figures are available for nursery and primary schools but not for nursery or non-nursery classes in primary schools.

Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships

7. EYDCPs are convened by LEAs and bring together local organisations to map out early education and childcare services. Through their Annual Plans, they are obliged to guarantee good quality, at least part time, nursery education places in the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors for all four year olds and some three year olds.

Nursery Education Grant

8. Section 1(1) of the *Nursery Education and Grant - Maintained Schools Act 1996* states that the Secretary of State may make arrangements for the making of grants in respect of nursery education. The arrangements and payment of the grant are covered by the regulations made under the Act and the *School Standards and Framework Act 1996*. The grant is payable by the LEA to providers registered with them up to an annual maximum of £1,160 per eligible child pursuant to the approved Plan for their area. The grant must be spent on nursery education for eligible children within the meaning of the Act and regulations. This will be checked through audit arrangements.

9. Nursery Education Grant funding for three year olds was distributed on the basis of social need to 65 Local Education Authorities during the financial year 1999-2000 and to all Local Education Authorities during 2000-2001.

Related statistics

10. Information about day care facilities for children will be available in a SFR in July and in the Statistical Bulletin 'Children's Day Care Facilities at 31 March 2001', which will be published in October 2001. The information from this survey covers various types of day care facilities for children age under eight - day nurseries, childminders, playgroups, out of school clubs, holiday schemes and family centres. Figures are collected on the number of providers of day care facilities, places provided and children receiving local authority provision. Where possible, provision for children aged under five is separately identified.

Public enquiries

11. Public enquiries about the information in this Statistical First Release should be addressed to Stephen Cook, Analytical Services, Department for Education and Employment, Mowden Hall, Darlington, County Durham, DL3 9BG.

Press enquiries

12. Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT:

John Shield 0207 925 5107

Table 1: Number of three and four year olds (1) (2) (3) by type of early years education provider

England

2000 - 2001 (provisional estimates)

Position in January each year

| | 2000 | | | | 2001 | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Total | | Funded places | | Total | | Funded places | |
| | Number of three and four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of three and four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of three and four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of three and four year olds | Percentage of population (4) |
| Private and voluntary providers (5) | 364,800 | 30 | 125,000 (6) | 10 | 386,200 | 32 | 208,200 (6) | 17 |
| Independent schools | 54,400 | 4 | 22,900 (6) | 2 | 55,500 | 5 | 27,300 (6) | 2 |
| Nursery and primary schools: | 713,600 | 58 | 713,600 | 58 | 709,600 | 58 | 709,600 | 58 |
| Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools | 362,700 | 30 | 362,700 | 30 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Infant classes in primary schools (7) | 350,900 | 29 | 350,900 | 29 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Special schools (8) | 4,900 | - | 4,900 | - | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - |
| All providers | 1,137,700 | 93 | 866,400 | 71 | 1,156,300 | 95 | 950,100 | 78 |

(1) Headcount of children aged three and four at 31st December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest hundred.

(2) Numbers of three and four year olds in schools may include some two year olds.

(3) Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.

(4) Number of three and four year olds attending provider expressed as a percentage of the three and four year old population.

(5) Includes some Local Authority providers (other than schools) registered to receive nursery education grants; excludes independent schools and providers not registered to receive nursery education grants.

(6) Number of three and four year olds whose parents received nursery education grants as reported by providers; nursery education grants for three year olds were available in only 65 Local Education Authority areas in January 2000.

(7) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.

(8) Includes general hospital schools.

.. Not available.

- less than 0.5%.

Table 2: Number of three year olds (1) (2) (3) by type of early years education provider

England

2000 - 2001 (provisional estimates)

Position in January each year

| | 2000 | | | | 2001 | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Total | | Funded places | | Total | | Funded places | |
| | Number of three year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of three year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of three year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of three year olds | Percentage of population (4) |
| Private and voluntary providers (5) | 268,800 | 44 | 37,000 (6) | 6 | 285,100 | 47 | 116,900 (6) | 19 |
| Independent schools | 25,900 | 4 | 2,500 (6) | - | 27,200 | 4 | 6,100 (6) | 1 |
| Nursery and primary schools: | 229,900 | 38 | 229,900 | 38 | 226,800 | 37 | 226,800 | 37 |
| Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools | 228,400 | 37 | 228,400 | 37 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Infant classes in primary schools (7) | 1,500 | - | 1,500 | - | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Special schools (8) | 2,300 | - | 2,300 | - | 2,300 | - | 2,300 | - |
| All providers | 526,900 | 86 | 271,700 | 44 | 541,300 | 89 | 352,100 | 58 |

(1) Headcount of children aged three at 31st December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest hundred.

(2) Numbers of three year olds in schools may include some two year olds.

(3) Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.

(4) Number of three year olds attending provider expressed as a percentage of the three year old population.

(5) Includes some Local Authority providers (other than schools) registered to receive nursery education grants; excludes independent schools and providers not registered to receive nursery education grants.

(6) Number of three year olds whose parents received nursery education grants as reported by providers; nursery education grants for three year olds were available in only 65 Local Education Authority areas in January 2000.

(7) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.

(8) Includes general hospital schools.

.. Not available.

- less than 0.5%.

Table 3: Number of four year olds (1) (2) (3) by type of early years education provider

England

1999 - 2001 (provisional estimates)

Position in January each year

| | 1999 | | 2000 | | | | 2001 | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Total | | Total | | Funded places | | Total | | Funded places | |
| | Number of four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of four year olds | Percentage of population (4) | Number of four year olds | Percentage of population (4) |
| Private and voluntary providers (5) | 95,100 | 15 | 96,000 | 16 | 88,000 (6) | 14 | 101,100 | 17 | 91,300 (6) | 15 |
| Independent schools | 28,700 | 5 | 28,500 | 5 | 20,400 (6) | 3 | 28,300 | 5 | 21,200 (6) | 3 |
| Nursery and primary schools: | 496,300 | 79 | 483,700 | 79 | 483,700 | 79 | 482,800 | 79 | 482,800 | 79 |
| Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools | 142,400 | 23 | 134,300 | 22 | 134,300 | 22 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Infant classes in primary schools (7) | 353,900 | 56 | 349,400 | 57 | 349,400 | 57 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Special schools (8) | 2,900 | - | 2,700 | - | 2,700 | - | 2,700 | - | 2,700 | - |
| All providers | 623,100 | 99 | 610,900 | 100 | 594,800 | 97 | 614,900 | 100 | 598,000 | 98 |

(1) Headcount of children aged four at 31st December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest hundred.

(2) Numbers of four year olds in schools may include some two year olds.

(3) Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.

(4) Number of four year olds attending provider expressed as a percentage of the four year old population.

(5) Includes some Local Authority providers (other than schools) registered to receive nursery education grants; excludes independent schools and providers not registered to receive nursery education grants.

(6) Number of four year olds whose parents received nursery education grants as reported by providers.

(7) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.

(8) Includes general hospital schools.

.. Not available.

- less than 0.5%.

**Table 4: Number of three and four year olds (1) in maintained nursery, primary, special and independent schools
England 1997 - 2001 (provisional estimates)
Position in January each year**

| | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|---|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ALL SCHOOLS | | | | | | |
| Number | 3 (2) | 242,700 | 250,600 | 254,100 | 258,000 | 256,300 |
| | 4 | 531,000 | 527,900 | 528,000 | 514,900 | 513,800 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 773,700 | 778,500 | 782,000 | 772,900 | 770,100 |
| Percentage (3) | 3 (2) | 38 | 40 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
| | 4 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 60 | 62 | 63 | 63 | 63 |
| MAINTAINED NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS | | | | | | |
| Number | 3 (2) | 214,200 | 222,000 | 225,700 | 229,900 | 226,800 |
| | 4 | 499,300 | 498,400 | 496,400 | 483,700 | 482,800 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 713,500 | 720,500 | 722,000 | 713,600 | 709,600 |
| Percentage (3) | 3 (2) | 34 | 35 | 37 | 38 | 37 |
| | 4 | 77 | 79 | 79 | 79 | 79 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 56 | 57 | 58 | 58 | 58 |
| OF WHICH: | | | | | | |
| Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools | | | | | | |
| Number | 3 (2) | 213,200 | 220,900 | 224,500 | 228,400 | .. |
| | 4 | 154,200 | 147,500 | 142,400 | 134,300 | .. |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 367,400 | 368,400 | 366,900 | 362,700 | .. |
| Percentage (3) | 3 (2) | 34 | 35 | 37 | 37 | .. |
| | 4 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 22 | .. |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 29 | 29 | 30 | 30 | .. |
| Infant classes in primary schools (4) | | | | | | |
| Number | 3 (2) | 900 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,500 | .. |
| | 4 | 345,200 | 351,000 | 353,900 | 349,400 | .. |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 346,100 | 352,100 | 355,100 | 350,900 | .. |
| Percentage (3) | 3 (2) | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | .. |
| | 4 | 53 | 55 | 56 | 57 | .. |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 27 | 28 | 29 | 29 | .. |
| INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (5) | | | | | | |
| Number | 3 (2) | 25,700 | 25,900 | 25,900 | 25,900 | 27,200 |
| | 4 | 28,600 | 26,300 | 28,700 | 28,500 | 28,300 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 54,400 | 52,300 | 54,600 | 54,400 | 55,500 |
| Percentage (3) | 3 (2) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| SPECIAL SCHOOLS (6)(7) | | | | | | |
| Number | 3 (2) | 2,800 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 2,300 | 2,300 |
| | 4 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 2,900 | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 5,800 | 5,700 | 5,400 | 4,900 | 5,000 |
| Percentage (3) | 3 (2) | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| | 4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| | 3 + 4 (2) | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |

(1) Headcount of children aged three and four at 31st December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest 100.

(2) Includes two year olds.

(3) Number attending provider expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.

(4) Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.

(5) Includes direct grant nursery schools.

(6) Includes general hospital schools.

(7) Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

.. not available.