

**SFR 09/2002****17 May 2002****Coverage: England****Theme: Education and  
Training****Issued by**Department for  
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statistics/DB/SFR/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SFR/)**PROVISION FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE IN  
ENGLAND: JANUARY 2002 (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 2002. 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 22/2001 to January 2002, it contains information for previous years from 1998, where this is available.

**KEY POINTS**

Three year olds (Table 2)

- The total number of three year olds attending schools in the maintained sector or taking up free early years education places in the private, voluntary and independent sectors increased by 67,100 from 352,100 in January 2001 to 419,200 in January 2002; the participation rate increased from 58% to 70%.
- There were increases in the number of three year olds taking up free early years education places in the private, voluntary and independent sectors with increases of 67,700, from 116,900 (19%) in January 2001 to 184,600 (31%) in January 2002 in the private and voluntary sector, and 4,600, from 6,100 (1%) to 10,700 (2%) in the independent sector. There was a decrease of 5,200 in the number of three year olds attending schools in the maintained sector.
- The total number of three year olds attending schools in the maintained sector or taking up early years education places in the private, voluntary or independent sectors decreased by 7,200 from 541,300 in January 2001 to 534,100 in January 2002. Decreases were spread proportionately over the different sectors, reflecting mainly the decrease in the population. The participation rate remained the same at 89%.



## **TABLES**

Table 1: Number of three and four year olds by type of early years education provider England January 2000-2002 (provisional estimates)

Table 2: Number of three year olds by type of early years education provider England January 2000-2002 (provisional estimates)

Table 3: Number of four year olds by type of early years education provider England January 1999-2002 (provisional estimates)

Table 4: Number of three and four year olds in maintained nursery, primary, special and independent schools England January 1998-2002 (provisional estimates)

These tables will be available from 17 May on the DfES website: [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Additional information will be published in the Statistical Bulletin 'Provision For Children Under Five Years of Age in England - January 2002' in October 2002.

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### **Provisional Estimates**

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

### **Sources of Information**

2. Two main sources of information were used to produce the figures in this SFR. Annual Schools Census collected information about three and four year olds attending schools in the maintained and independent sectors in January each year. Early Years Census collected information about three and four year olds taking up places in the private, voluntary and independent sectors from all providers registered with EYDCPs in January each year. Providers returned the number of places for three year olds for which they had received or expected to receive Nursery Education Grant funding. Note that the number of three and four year olds attending independent schools is derived from ASC and the number of three and four year olds taking up free early years education places at independent schools from EYC.

### **Age of pupils**

3. For January 2002, three year olds were born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 1998, four year olds between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 1997.

### **Population Estimates**

4. Figures for participation rates are calculated using population estimates derived from

mid-year estimates and projections provided by the Office for National Statistics. Participation rates are defined as the number of three/four year olds attending maintained schools or taking up free early years education places in the private, voluntary and independent sectors expressed as a percentage of the three/four year old population.

### **Nursery classes**

5. 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 were available for maintained nursery and primary schools but not for nursery or non-nursery classes in maintained primary schools.

### **Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships**

6. EYDCPs are convened by Local Education Authorities and bring together local organisations to plan early years education and childcare services. Through their annual plans, they are obliged to guarantee good quality free early years education places for all four year olds, since September 1998, and some three year olds. A free place consists of five two and a half hour sessions of early years education per week for thirty-three weeks of the year, usually three terms of eleven weeks. These places may be in any of the private, voluntary, independent or maintained sectors.

### **Nursery Education Grant**

7. 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 £1,218 per eligible child in 2002-03 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.

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

### **Public enquiries**

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

### **Press enquiries**

10. Press enquiries should be addressed to Louise Brown, Press Office, Department for Education and Skills, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

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

England

2000 - 2002 (provisional estimates)

Position in January each year

	2000				2001				2002			
	Total		Funded places		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)	Number of three and four year olds	Percentage of population (4)	Number of three and four year olds	Percentage of population (4)
<b>Private and voluntary providers (5)</b>	364,800	30	125,000 (6)	10	386,200	32	208,200 (6)	17	379,800	31	274,000 (6)	23
<b>Independent schools</b>	54,400	4	22,900 (6)	2	55,500	5	27,300 (6)	2	55,800	5	31,900 (6)	3
<b>Nursery and primary schools:</b>	713,600	58	713,600	58	709,600	58	709,600	58	697,900	58	697,900	58
<b>Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools</b>	362,700	30	362,700	30	..	..	..	..	340,600	28	340,600	28
<b>Infant classes in primary schools (7)</b>	350,900	29	350,900	29	..	..	..	..	357,300	30	357,300	30
<b>Special schools (8)</b>	4,900	0.5	4,900	0.5	5,000	0.4	5,000	0.4	4,800	0.4	4,800	0.4
<b>All providers</b>	1,137,700	93	866,400	71	1,156,300	95	950,100	78	1,138,300	94	1,008,700	83

(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) Providers returned the number of places for three year olds for which they had received or expected to receive Nursery Education Grant funding;

Nursery Education Grants for places 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.

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

England

2000 - 2002 (provisional estimates)

Position in January each year

	2000				2001				2002			
	Total		Funded places		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)	Number of three year olds	Percentage of population (4)	Number of three year olds	Percentage of population (4)
<b>Private and voluntary providers (5)</b>	268,800	44	37,000 (6)	6	285,100	47	116,900 (6)	19	283,200	47	184,600 (6)	31
<b>Independent schools</b>	25,900	4	2,500 (6)	-	27,200	4	6,100 (6)	1	27,000	4	10,700 (6)	2
<b>Nursery and primary schools:</b>	229,900	38	229,900	38	226,800	37	226,800	37	221,800	37	221,800	37
<b>Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools</b>	228,400	37	228,400	37	..	..	..	..	220,300	37	220,300	37
<b>Infant classes in primary schools (7)</b>	1,500	0.2	1,500	0.2	..	..	..	..	1,500	0.2	1,500	0.2
<b>Special schools (8)</b>	2,300	0.4	2,300	0.4	2,300	0.4	2,300	0.4	2,100	0.3	2,100	0.3
<b>All providers</b>	526,900	86	271,700	44	541,300	89	352,100	58	534,100	89	419,200	70

(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) Providers returned the number of places for three year olds for which they had received or expected to receive Nursery Education Grant funding;

Nursery Education Grants for places 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.

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

England

1999 - 2002 (provisional estimates)

Position in January each year

	1999		2000				2001				2002			
	Total		Total		Funded places		Total		Funded places		Total		Funded places	
	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)	Number of four year olds	Percentage of population (3)
<b>Private and voluntary providers (4)</b>	95,100	15	96,000	16	88,000	14	101,100	17	91,300	15	96,500	16	89,500	15
<b>Independent schools</b>	28,700	5	28,500	5	20,400	3	28,300	5	21,200	3	28,800	5	21,200	4
<b>Nursery and primary schools:</b>	496,300	79	483,700	79	483,700	79	482,800	79	482,800	79	476,000	78	476,000	78
<b>Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools</b>	142,400	23	134,300	22	134,300	22	..	..	..	..	120,300	20	120,300	20
<b>Infant classes in primary schools (5)</b>	353,900	56	349,400	57	349,400	57	..	..	..	..	355,800	59	355,800	59
<b>Special schools (6)</b>	2,900	0.4	2,700	0.4	2,700	0.4	2,700	0.4	2,700	0.4	2,700	0.4	2,700	0.4
<b>All providers</b>	623,100	99	610,900	100	594,800	97	614,900	100	598,000	98	604,100	99	589,400	97

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

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

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

(4) 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.

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

(6) Includes general hospital schools.

.. Not available.

**Table 4: Number of three and four year olds (1) in maintained nursery, primary, special and independent schools  
England 1997 - 2002 (provisional estimates)  
Position in January each year**

	Age Group	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>ALL SCHOOLS</b>						
Number	3 (2)	250,600	254,100	258,000	256,300	250,900
	4	527,900	528,000	514,900	513,800	507,600
	3 + 4 (2)	778,500	782,000	772,900	770,100	758,500
Percentage of population (3)	3 (2)	40	42	42	42	42
	4	83	84	84	84	84
	3 + 4 (2)	62	63	63	63	63
<b>MAINTAINED NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>						
Number	3 (2)	222,000	225,700	229,900	226,800	221,800
	4	498,400	496,400	483,700	482,800	476,000
	3 + 4 (2)	720,500	722,000	713,600	709,600	697,900
Percentage of population (3)	3 (2)	35	37	38	37	37
	4	79	79	79	79	78
	3 + 4 (2)	57	58	58	58	58
<b>OF WHICH:</b>						
<b>Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools</b>						
Number	3 (2)	220,900	224,500	228,400	..	220,300
	4	147,500	142,400	134,300	..	120,300
	3 + 4 (2)	368,400	366,900	362,700	..	340,600
Percentage of population (3)	3 (2)	35	37	37	..	37
	4	23	23	22	..	20
	3 + 4 (2)	29	30	30	..	28
<b>Infant classes in primary schools (4)</b>						
Number	3 (2)	1,200	1,100	1,500	..	1,500
	4	351,000	353,900	349,400	..	355,800
	3 + 4 (2)	352,100	355,100	350,900	..	357,300
Percentage of population (3)	3 (2)	0.2	0.2	0.2	..	0.2
	4	55	56	57	..	59
	3 + 4 (2)	28	29	29	..	30
<b>INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (5)</b>						
Number	3 (2)	25,900	25,900	25,900	27,200	27,000
	4	26,300	28,700	28,500	28,300	28,800
	3 + 4 (2)	52,300	54,600	54,400	55,500	55,800
Percentage of population (3)	3 (2)	4	4	4	4	4
	4	4	5	5	5	5
	3 + 4 (2)	4	4	4	5	5
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS (6)(7)</b>						
Number	3 (2)	2,600	2,500	2,300	2,300	2,100
	4	3,100	2,900	2,700	2,700	2,700
	3 + 4 (2)	5,700	5,400	4,900	5,000	4,800
Percentage of population (3)	3 (2)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
	4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
	3 + 4 (2)	0.5	0.4	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.