

Dear Parent,

The Early Years Pupil Premium

From April 2015, nurseries, schools, childminders and other childcare providers will be able to claim extra funding through the Early Years Pupil Premium to support children's development, learning and care. We wanted to write to you to explain what the Early Years Pupil Premium is, explain who is eligible for this funding and, importantly, to ask you to fill out the enclosed forms so that we as a provider can claim the extra funding.

National data and research tells that children eligible for free school meals tend to do less well, for example in 2014 45% of children eligible for free school meals achieved the expected level at the end of the early years foundation stage compared with 64% of other children. The Early Years Pupil Premium will provide us with extra funding to close this gap.

The Early Years Pupil Premium provides an extra 53 pence per hour for three and four year old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or who were formally in local authority care but who left care because they were adopted or were subject to a special guardianship or child arrangements order. This means an extra £302 a year for each child taking up the full 570 hours funded entitlement to early education. This additional money could make a significant difference to us.

We can use the extra funding in any way we choose to improve the quality of the early years education that we provide for your child. This could include for example additional training for our staff on early language, investing in partnership working with our colleagues in the area to further our expertise or supporting our staff in working on specialised areas such as speech and language.

It is well documented that high quality early education can influence how well a child does at both primary and secondary school so we do want to make the most of this additional funding. You may be aware if you have older children that a pupil premium has been available for school age children and it has proved to have given a real boost to the children receiving the funding. We want to do the same for our early years children entitled to this funding.

The eligibility criteria is as follows –

Early Years Pupil Premium can be claimed by the childcare provider if a child at their setting is accessing free early education for 3 and 4 year olds and the child's parent or carer receives one of the following benefits:

- * Income Support
- * Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- * Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- * Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- * The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- * Child Tax Credit (provided the family is not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- * Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after a family stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Or the child falls into one of the following groups:

- * Looked after by the local authority
- * Adopted from care
- * Has left care through a special guardianship arrangement
- * Is subject to a child arrangement order (previously known as a residence order)

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kind regards,

Bryony