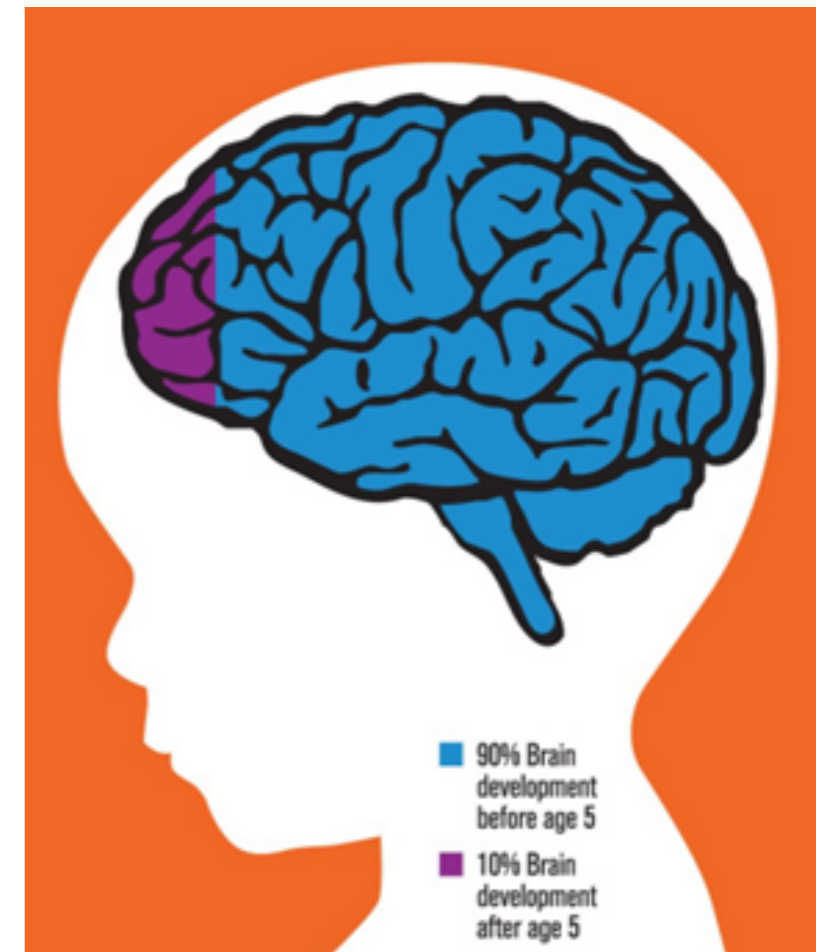




**An Introduction to
The Early Years and
Early Years Expansion**

Brain Development in the Early Years

- During the first two years of life the brain displays a remarkable capacity to absorb information and adapt to its surroundings.
- By age one, the size of a child's brain is already 72% of adult volume on average and by age two it has grown to 83% (Knickmeyer et. al. 2008).
- At age two, the connections that are being formed in a child's brain are happening about twice as fast as in an adult's brain (Stiles & Jernigan 2010).
- At age three a child's brain is estimated to be about twice as active as an adult's brain (Brotherson 2009).
- At age five a child's brain uses almost twice as much energy as an adult's brain to support brain development (Kuzawa et al 2013).



Why is Early Years Education so Important?

- **High-quality early years provision prepares children for success in later education by giving them the building blocks for future learning.**
- **The ‘Effective pre-school, primary and secondary education project’ found that children who attended early years provision, of any kind, achieved better GCSE results than those who did not.**
- **Children who attended higher quality provision were more likely to achieve better GCSE results.**

Changes to the Early Years Childcare Landscape

Entitlements: Eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks a year, from when their child is 9 months old to when they start school. Govt will also increase the hourly rate for providers.



Market reforms, including more choice for childminders and changes to EYFS requirements, to improve flexibility for providers and support the workforce.

Changing staff: child ratios from 1:4 to 1:5 for two-year-olds in England to align with Scotland and provide greater flexibility for providers

Childminder grants to attract people to childminding, with £1200 for those who register with a childminder agency and £600 for those who register with Ofsted

Universal Credit reforms will pay childcare support up-front when parents move into work or increase their hours and increase the monthly re-imbusement caps

The Timeline of Change

The Government are extending childcare to support more parents returning to work after their parental leave ends. By September 2025, working parents of all children over the age of nine months will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare. So that schools, nurseries and childminders can prepare to deliver such a major expansion, it will be rolled out in phases:

From **April 2024**, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare.

From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare will be extended to all working families with children the term after 9 months

From **September 2025**, working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours childcare per week.

Criteria: Parents are required to earn between £167 per week (equal to 16 hours National Minimum Wage) - under £100k. The parents will be required to check eligibility on the Childcare Choices website and have their codes validated on a 3 monthly basis.

Funded Early Years Entitlement Offers

Childcare for Under Fives

Childcare Choices
 • Find the right childcare offer for you
 • Sign up for regular updates
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Barnet Early Years
 • Find help choosing childcare
 • See our website for advice and guidance
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare>

Childcare Directory
 • Find a school, nursery or childminder near you
https://familyservices.barnet.gov.uk/SynergyWeb_Live/CD/Enquiries/Search.aspx?searchID=4

Barnet Local Offer
 • Find support for children with special education needs and/or disabilities and their families
<https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/>

EarlyYears@barnet.gov.uk
 020 8359 3052

Caring for people, our places and the planet

15hrs FREE childcare available

www.barnet.gov.uk/free-childcare

The benefits in accessing childcare hours for your 2-year-old

- Building their confidence and independence
- Improving their social skills and making friends
- Better opportunities in developing their communication and language skills
- Have fun while learning

To find out more, please contact the Barnet Early Years team on 0208 359 3052

How to apply for funded childcare for Working Parents with 2, 3 or 4 year-old children

STEP 1 CHECK YOU'RE ELIGIBLE
 Check if you're eligible for free childcare and compare different types of support.
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

STEP 2 APPLY FOR FUNDING
 You need to apply the term before you want to take up a place. To apply, go to the government gateway Childcare service.
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

STEP 3 FIND A CHILDCARE PROVIDER
 Find childcare near you
<https://www.gov.uk/find-free-early-education>

STEP 4 GIVE YOUR CODE TO THE CHILDCARE PROVIDER
 Give the code in your childcare account to your provider(s) along with your National Insurance number and your child's date of birth. Your childcare provider(s) will check your code is valid and you can't take up your free childcare place without it.

STEP 5 RECONFIRM
 You must confirm your details are up to date every 3 months or your code will expire. Sign into your gov.uk childcare account to confirm your details - You will receive a reminder from HMRC to do this.
<https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account?step-by-step-nav=f517cd57-3c18-4bb9-aa8b-1b907e279bf9>

[Childcare | Barnet Council](#)

earlyyears@barnet.gov.uk

020 8359 3052

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

Supply and Demand

- The DfE's Supply and Demand analysis of Barnet estimates that no new childcare places will be needed in **April 2024** or **September 2024**, but that **171** places will be needed in **September 2025**.
- Alongside the DfE analysis data, the EY team conducted our own data collection of the supply of childcare places in Barnet and estimate that no new childcare places will be needed in April 2024. We will continue to monitor the uptake of the new entitlements alongside the insights and intelligence team.
- Barnet's childcare sufficiency assessment highlighted that Colindale and Golders Green require more early years provision. We will use the Capital Grant money to encourage provision within these areas.
- Early Years recruitment, we are working with partners including BELS, DWP and Colleges.

Early Years Action Plan Headlines

Area Identified	Examples of work undertaken / to be undertaken
Childcare Sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) - Analysing local data - Comparing local data with Department of Education and Census data. - Engage Barnet/ Surveys (Families and Early Years Settings) - Monitoring localised sufficiency
Early years Recruitment and Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and implement recruitment and retention initiatives. - Work alongside partners such as Barnet & Southgate College, Job Centre Plus and Boost - Access to Early Years Apprenticeships - Raise the profile of Childminders
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with partners - Updated Barnet Website - Utilise social media platforms. - Introduction of the early years bulletin - Promotional campaign - Engage partners to support with the promotion. - Bitesize Information Sessions
IT Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timescales of system updates - Having backup arrangements if systems are not in place - Testing period - Training internally and externally - Support for both families and providers
Finance and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes to the funding for early years providers - Capital funding protocols - Staffing arrangements in place to manage the increase in workload.