

# HOW TO...

## support learning and development for Looked After Children in the early years



### Children aged under 2 years ▼

Activities which provide opportunities for the child and carer to engage together promote and support development. Such activities include bounce and rhyme at your local library, parent and toddler groups, etc.

**Children placed in Staffordshire** – Looked After Children are entitled to a free pass to access Children's Centre services. Details of activities running at Staffordshire's children's Centres can be found on the Family Services Directory [Children | Staffordshire Family Services Directory](#) or 0300 111 8007.

**Children placed outside Staffordshire** - check the local Children's Centre offer and local Family Information Service.

### Children aged 2 years ▼

**All Looked After Children are entitled to 15 hours free funded early education the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.**

Where children are in long term placements early years provision is key to support good development. Please note that the full 15 hour entitlement doesn't need to be taken, e.g. the child could attend a setting for two mornings a week.

Private nurseries, pre-schools, schools and child minders can be used. Child minders are Ofsted registered and inspected. Smaller, domestic based care could work well for some children. The [Staffordshire Family Services Directory](#) can help you choose a setting to suit the child. Priority should be given to outstanding and good settings.

Always plan the child's attendance at settings with an Early Years Personal Education Plan (PEP). It is good practice to invite the child's health visitor.

For children in short term placements, with upcoming moves or about whom you have concerns, contact the Virtual School for support.

### Children aged 3 and 4 years ▼

**All Looked After Children are entitled to 15 hours free funded early education the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.**

Looked After Children are entitled to £300 Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) per year when in attendance at pre-school, nursery class or day care provision. The Early Years PEP is the tool used to identify how the entitlement is used. The PEP ensures active involvement of different professionals and ensures that we are all working together to seek the best outcomes for Looked After Children. The emphasis is on practical outcomes and taking responsibility for actions.

An Early Years PEP supports carers, parents, prospective adoptive parents and the children themselves by giving a helpful overview of the child's life. This is an important as the life of a Looked After Child can be full of changes and moving homes is common. Completed PEP documentation should be forwarded to [VirtualSchoolEYPupilPremiumInbox@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:VirtualSchoolEYPupilPremiumInbox@staffordshire.gov.uk) where upon receipt funding will be disbursed.

This is available to children placed in and outside Staffordshire.

## Transition to reception ▼

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Transition to reception should be planned through the Early Years PEP. Good information sharing is vital.

Contact the admissions team for the process and dates for reception admission. Looked After Children are a priority. Outstanding and good setting should be prioritised.

It is possible to consider delaying entry for children born after 1<sup>st</sup> April. If you think this may be appropriate for a child you're working with contact the Virtual School for a discussion. A part time timetable or phased transition could be considered.

Pupil Premium Plus is £1900 per children for reception age. £500 is devolved termly to schools. The use of PPP is planned through the child's PEP.

## Pupil Premium Plus in the early years ▼

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The child's PEP should be used to identify key areas for development and then consider how the PPP could be used to promote / support either in the setting or outside the sessions, e.g. activities in the home or community, support for emotional development.

**The home learning environment is the biggest factor**  
This should be considered in the PEP

[What to expect, when?](#) is a guide to child development over six different age bands and how to support their learning and development during these stages.

## Concerns re development ▼

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If you have any concerns about a child's development seek advice from appropriate services who can support you with interventions and strategies over time.

### Children placed in Staffordshire

- For children in an early years setting, ask for support from EY Area SENCO who could refer to Early Years Forum.
- For children in a school nursery, ask for support from the school SENCO.
- For children not in an early years setting, request a direct referral to the Early Years forum via the child's health visitor.

### Children placed outside Staffordshire

- For children in an early years setting, speak to the EY SENCO in the setting
- For children not in an early years setting, speak to the child's health visitor

**If you still have concerns, contact the Virtual School**