The Early Years Pupil Premium was introduced by government in April 2015 to help early years providers try to close the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers. In Northamptonshire at the end of Reception (2017), 17% fewer children eligible for Free School Meals achieved a “good level of development” (GLD) than children who are not eligible. This gap is starting to close but we need to do much more to promote the additional funding and allocate the additional funding effectively to narrow the gap further.

What is Early Years Pupil Premium?

Children who are currently claiming the Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in Northamptonshire, who meet certain eligibility criteria, could be eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) at a rate of 53p an hour which equates to £302.10 per annum.

http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/early-years/information-for-childcare-providers/funding/Pages/early-years-pupil-premium.aspx

How to identify and encourage parents who might be eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium?

EYPP is paid by the local authority where the child receives the early education and parents/carers can check their eligibility through an online checker: Eligibility needs to be checked once a year. From September 2017 the additional funding will be paid as a percentage payment each month, so in the autumn term, the funding team will pay 20% of total payment at the end of September, 20% at the end of October and so on. From 1st September 2017 all settings will be informed about who the EYPP is for via the new remittance format sent by the funding team.


The DfE form helps providers identify which of the children in their care are eligible for the EYPP. Department for Education recommends that providers ask all parents and guardians, regardless of family income or circumstances, to complete the form when they register their child.


Children in Care (CiC)

For children who are currently looked after, or have left care in England or Wales through: an adoption, a special guardianship order or a child arrangement order the setting should contact Northamptonshire Virtual School at Virtualschool@northamptonshire.gov.uk to access the EYPP additional funding and discuss the individual learning and development needs of that child. If cross county arrangements are in place remember to contact the local authority that is responsible for the child to access the additional funding.
How the Early Years Pupil Premium is spent will determine whether it makes a difference.

The Early Years Pupil Premium is intended to make a difference by having extra targeted strategies for the rate of progress these children make, and by ensuring practitioners focus specifically on these children’s progress. The funding provides extra money at a hugely important point in children’s lives to the children who need it most. It presents a great opportunity for investment in improving outcomes for children. It can be used to improve the facilities, equipment and learning experiences to benefit the growth and development of children. But having more resources will not necessarily lead to improved outcomes.

In order to allocate EYPP funding effectively:

- **Identify the needs of the child**, learning gaps or where the child would benefit from a wider range of experiences.

- **Identify any trends** across the children. If you have several children with a similar need, their funding or part of their funding could be pooled, this can result in the funding going further.

- **Think about what you might do with the funding to support the child’s needs**, remember to work alongside parents and consider how parents could be involved in supporting children’s learning at home. If a child at their development age and stage related expectations consider activities to enrich their experiences.


- Consider a **Provision mapping process** as a way of recording and evidencing the difference your interventions are contributing to a child’s progress, a way of evidencing whether your financial spend is making a difference and a way of reflecting on your practice and provision [http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/early-years/information-for-childcare-providers/the-early-years-curriculum/Pages/special-education-needs-and-inclusion-in-the-early-years-foundation-stage.aspx](http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/early-years/information-for-childcare-providers/the-early-years-curriculum/Pages/special-education-needs-and-inclusion-in-the-early-years-foundation-stage.aspx)

- **Assign the funding and implement the chosen strategy/strategies.**

- **Measure the impact** before implementing the next cycle. Analyse any information such as data from tracking systems, monitoring processes, parents comments etc. and use this when assessing the impact of the spend.

Remember that Ofsted hold providers **accountable** for how the EYPP is spent. Ofsted will review ‘how effectively leaders use additional funding, including the early years pupil premium, and measure its impact on narrowing gaps in children’s outcomes’ (Early Years Inspection Handbook, 2015, p. 33).