

Early Years Vulnerable Families (EYVF) Funding

April 2025

Early Years Vulnerable Families

Section one -The Early Years Vulnerable Families offer

All children aged three and four are entitled to 15 hours per week of Free Early Education (FEE) from the term following their third birthday (up to 38 weeks per year). Some two year olds are eligible to access up to 15 hours per week of childcare support for 2YOs, from the term following their second birthday (up to 38 weeks per year), a criterion applies to access a two year old place.

You can find out more about Free Early Education by clicking on the link: [Free childcare and help paying for childcare | Barnet Council](#)

The Early Years Vulnerable Family (EYVF) funding provides vulnerable children aged 6 months to five years with a funded place within a Children's Centre, childminder, maintained nursery/nursery class or in a private, voluntary and independent setting that participates on the scheme.

The EYVF offers eligible children:

- up to 15 hours per week of childcare (may be accessed in addition to the Free Early Education)
- this childcare can be accessed for up to **12 weeks**.
- a meal if required (dependent on times allocated)

The EYVF will fund children during the term time and school holidays if required.

Section two - EYVF eligibility criteria

There needs to be evidence that the EYVF will support the child as a short term intervention or have a pre-existing EHA or a Social Work Single Assessment for the family with childcare identified as intervention to support the family.

The EYVF funding must support preventing family breakdown, due to a crisis in the family (for example, due to domestic abuse, parental mental illness, ill health or substance misuse).

Support around the child having on-going special needs should be considered as part of their EHCP Plan and if necessary, supported by Inclusion funding.

Section three - The referral process

I. EHA route

1. The EHA must be submitted by the Lead Professional (LP) with a completed Early Years Vulnerable Family referral form via the EHM system.

2. The EHA must be submitted by the Lead Professional (LP) with a completed Early Years Vulnerable Families referral form to the Early Years Team on EarlyYears@barnet.gov.uk
3. Once the referral is received, Brokerage Officer in the Early Years Team will support the family in securing a childcare place.
4. Once the placement is secured, the Early Years will inform the CAF Team and the Referrer of the chosen provider and the agreed start date.
5. The Early Years Team will confirm the agreed funding to the provider and process the payment.
6. The funding will be allocated for a set period of time of 12 weeks pending on family circumstances.
7. The placement will be automatically closed once the end date is reached.

II. Social Care Route

1. The Single Assessment summary identifying the need and how the EYVF will support the family must be submitted by the Social Worker to the Early Years Team on EarlyYears@Barnet.gov.uk. **The subject of the email is EYVF referral.**

2. The Single Assessment summary must contain:

- Child's Name
- Child's DOB
- Parent's/Carer's Name
- Full address
- Parent's/Carer's contact telephone numbers and email address
- Information whether the referred child is already accessing childcare and if so, name of the setting and the total number of hours per week
- Detailed information of the childcare requested: hours, any specific days, whether lunches are also requested.

Referrals with incomplete information will be returned to the referrer and cause delay in supporting the family.

3. The Early Years Team will process the referral, verify the eligibility criteria and confirm the outcome of the referral stage with the referrer.
4. The Brokerage Officer in the Early Years Team will support the family in securing a childcare place.
5. Once the placement is secured, the Early Years will inform the Referrer of the chosen provider and the agreed start date.

6. The Early Years Team will confirm the agreed funding to the provider and process the payment.
7. The funding will be allocated for a set period of up to 12 weeks pending on family circumstances.
8. The referring Social Worker must invite the Early Years Strategy and Sufficiency Manager to the case review meeting should there be a need for a further EYVF support.
9. The placement will be automatically closed once the end date is reached

Section four - Finding suitable childcare.

Childcare places can be offered with Childminders, Children's Centres, maintained nursery classes/schools and private, voluntary, and independent nurseries, pre-schools. Only childcare settings that participate in the scheme can offer EYVF funded places.

Parents must not be charged for any element of the childcare placement unless they choose to take up additional hours or services.

Section five -Services provided under the EYVF scheme.

Meals – Lunch/tea

If a child requires a meal (a cooked lunch or cooked tea - dependant on attendance times) an additional payment of £2.58 can be made by the EYVF funding. Funding will not be paid to cover snacks/snack time.

Meals must be agreed in advance – preferably in the brokerage stage of the referral. If a meal is required at a later stage due to a change in hours, the request to the Early Years Team (EarlyYears@Barnet.gov.uk) must be made and approved before the change can take place.

Section six - Placement length

All placements will be awarded for up to 12 weeks only. In exceptional circumstances a further referral may be considered.

Changes in circumstances

If the family undergo a change in circumstances that may require an increase or decrease in the hours funded a copy of the EHA Review or Social Work Review must be submitted to the Early Years Team (EarlyYears@Barnet.gov.uk) for approval prior to the change in hours. Changes in requirement for meals or holiday care must also be requested and approved in advance.

If the child no longer requires the funded childcare or leaves the placement the Early Years Team must be notified immediately and no later than within five working days.

Section seven – Payments to providers

All agreed EYVF referrals will be paid to providers in advance once the placement details are confirmed (i.e., childcare provider and start date).

EHA Review or Social Work plan review resulting in changes to the agreed placement will trigger an adjustment in the form of debit or credit issued to the providers.

Section eight - Funding levels

From April 2025, for children aged six months and up to the end of term in which they turn two, Barnet Council will pay £13.11 per hour.

For children aged 2 years up to the end of the term in which they turn three, Barnet Council will pay £9.99 per hour.

For children aged three to five, Barnet Council will pay £6.47 per hour.

If a meal is agreed this will be paid at a rate of £2.58 (if required)

Section nine - Absences

Poor/erratic attendance

In all cases of absence, the childcare setting must action their safeguarding policies/procedures if there is no contact from the parent/carer to inform the childcare setting of the reasons for the absence. The childcare settings should contact the social worker/lead professional for support (if required).

Section eleven - Contact details

Early Years Team
Tel: 020 8359 3052
Email: EarlyYears@Barnet.gov.uk

Based at :
London Borough of Barnet
The Network
24 Hendon Lane
London
N3 1TR

Early Years Vulnerable Family Referral Form

The Early Years Vulnerable Family (EYVF) Referral form must be completed fully for all referrals made to EYVF for funding alongside one of the following documents:

- Social Work Single Assessment for Social Work route

Any referral received without this form fully completed will not be accepted.

Children aged 6 months to 5 years (up to statutory school age) can access an EYVF place.

| Referrers details: | |
|---|--|
| Name: | |
| Job title/Department/ Organisation: | |
| Telephone number: | |
| Email address | |
| <p>Please ensure consent has been provided by the parent/carer that all information submitted to support the referral e.g. CAF/Initial Assessment/Core Assessment/Risk Assessment can be passed on to third parties, for example; The Early Years , third party childcare providers.</p> | |
| Date consent was provided | |

| Child's details: | Parent's/Carers details: |
|--|--------------------------|
| Name: | Name: |
| DOB | N/A |
| Full address: | |
| Contact telephone numbers and email address: | |
| Briefly explain what intervention is planned for the family that this request will support ? | |
| | |
| Briefly explain what difference this short-term intervention will make to the child/family: | |
| | |
| Is the child already accessing childcare provision? If yes, please provide details | |
| Name of the setting: | |
| Total number of hours per week: | |

| Childcare/additional childcare request details: | |
|---|--|
| Hours per week: (maximum of 15) | |
| Lunches per week: | |
| Is the family registered with Barnet Children's Centre services? Y/ N | |

For more details on the EYVF funding please contact the Early Years Team on:
 Email: EarlyYears@Barnet.gov.uk