

CALCULATING THE SUPPLY OF CHILDCARE: FULL TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES

The supply of childcare in Devon is measured in Full Time Equivalent Places (FTEs). FTEs are based on hours open and the capacity of the provider. This standardises available provision for different providers opening various hours. FTE places are rounded up to the nearest 0.5 place.

Early Years Provision

In Devon it has been decided that the following full time equivalent places will be used for early years provision:

Category	Full Time Equivalent	Based on
Under 2 year olds	30 hours per week	6 hours a day, 5 days a week
2 year old places	30 hours per week	6 hours a day, 5 days a week
3 and 4 year old places	30 hours per week	6 hours a day, 5 days a week

The rationale for using 30 hours per week as a full time equivalent place for an under two- , two-year-old and three- and four-year-olds are:

- 30 hours is equivalent to two part time funded places (15 hours x 2)
- Most schools and pre-schools, if open all day, will offer 30 hours
- Historically 25 hours per week was used as a full time equivalent place in school and is the minimum number of hours that can be offered to infants starting school. In addition to this there is 5 x 1 hour lunch breaks. In school nursery provision and early years settings the lunch hour is funded time. (25hours + 5hours = 30 hours)
- Anecdotally, the Early Years and Childcare Service know that most parents using childcare use between 15 and 50 hours a week, however, the majority of children do not use more than 30 hours
- There is a high level of part time employment in Devon. Part time employment is considered to be 30 hours or less.

Therefore the supply of early years childcare places are provided in **Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Places** based on 30 hours a week being 1FTE.

To calculate **Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Places**: The number of hours the provider is open per week is divided by the Full Time Equivalent hours (30 hours for 0 to 4 year olds) and is then multiplied by the number of children a provider can take at any one time. This data is gathered from the [Annual Survey of Providers](#) once a year.

$$\text{FTE Places} = \left(\frac{\text{Total number of hours open per week}}{30 \text{ hours (1FTE)}} \right) \times \text{Number of children that can be taken at any one time}$$

Full Time Equivalent Places are then rounded up to the nearest half (0.5) place.

For example:

A provider is open for 50 hours a week and has reported that they can take 9 under 2 year olds, 12 2 year olds and 16 3 and 4 year olds at any one time. The following calculations would be made to produce their Full Time Equivalent Places:

- 50 hours a week ÷ 30 hours FTE = 1.67 x 9 under 2 year olds at any one time = 15 FTE under 2 year old places
- 50 hours a week ÷ 30 hours FTE = 1.67 x 12 2 year olds at any one time = 20 FTE under 2 year old places
- 50 hours a week ÷ 30 hours FTE = 1.67 x 16 3 and 4 year olds at any one time = 26.67 3 and 4 year old FTE places – rounded to 27 FTE three and four year old places

Out of School Provision

In Devon it has been decided that the following full time equivalent places will be used for out of school provision:

Category	Full Time Equivalent	Based on
Before School Places	As per settings capacity	
After School Places	As per settings capacity	
Holiday Places	30 hours per week	6 hours a day, 5 days a week
Weekend Places	12 hours per week	6 hours a day, 2 days a week

The rationale for using the settings capacity for before and after school places is that a child attending a before school session is going to attend right up until school starts and a child attending an after school session will attend straight from school but may leave at different times. If a before school provider is open from 7.00am until 9.00am and a child starts at 8.00am and attends until 9.00am then it is unlikely that the before school provider will offer the 7.00am until 8.00am slot as this does not meet the parents need of requiring care up until the start of school which is the purpose of the provision. This is similar with after school provision.

To calculate **Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Places**: The number of hours the provider is open per week is divided by the Full Time Equivalent hours and is then multiplied by the number of children a provider can take at any one time. This data is gathered from the Annual Survey of Providers once a year.

$$\text{FTE Places} = \left(\frac{\text{Total number of hours open per week}}{\text{Number of hours for 1 FTE}} \right) \times \text{Number of children that can be taken at any one time}$$

Full Time Equivalent Places are then rounded up to the nearest half (0.5) place.