Determining eligibility for free early education  
pink line

Due to locally determined school dates, the local authority starting dates for children claiming their free early education for the first time may vary from the nationally prescribed dates in the Department for Education code of practice (page 20).

In Kent, children become eligible to claim their free early education from:

| **A child born between:** |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 April to 31 August (inclusive) | The start of term 1 following their third birthday (after summer holidays) until statutory school age. |
| 1 September to 31 December (inclusive) | The start of term 3 following their third birthday (after Christmas and New Year holiday) until statutory school age. |
| 1 January to 31 March (inclusive) | The start of term 5 following their third birthday (after April holiday) until statutory school age. |