

Funding for free childcare offers to continue in the event of coronavirus closures

Today the Chancellor has confirmed the Government will continue to pay for free early years entitlement places even if settings are closed on the advice of Public Health England or children are not able to attend due to coronavirus. We expect local authorities to follow the Department's position, and to continue early entitlements funding for all childminders, schools and nurseries. We will not be asking for funding back from local authorities.

The Government's advice remains that childcare settings should stay open unless advised otherwise by Public Health England, and today's announcement should help settings to continue to do so. This will minimise both longer-term disruption to parents and any income losses that providers may otherwise experience.

The full statement can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-childcare-offers-to-continue-during-coronavirus-closures>