

**Stockton-on-Tees**

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**

**August 2025**



**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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# Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare - June 2018, requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 - 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

The duty is detailed in the following sections of the Acts:

## Childcare Act 2006

Section 6	secures sufficient childcare for parents;
Section 7	secures free early years provision free of charge; Section 7A discharges its duty;
Section 9	gives LA's the power to attach requirements to the arrangements they make with providers (other than the governing body of a maintained school) to deliver childcare including free early years provision;
Section 9a	allows regulations to be made which prescribe the requirements local authorities may or may not impose when they make arrangements;
Section 12	provides information, advice, and assistance to parents about childcare in the area;
Section 13	to secure the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers and childcare workers

## Childcare Act 2016

Section 1	places a duty on the Secretary of State to secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children;
Section 2	allows the Secretary of State to discharge her duty under section 1 of the Act by placing a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children;

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should consider:

- what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area;
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the state of the labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce;
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience, and expertise;
- should encourage schools in their area to offer out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays;
- should encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market; and
- should encourage providers to take sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in the report, geographical division, and date of publication. However, the report should include:

- a specific reference to how we are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: children with special educational needs and disabilities; disabled children; children from families in

receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care.

- Information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility, and quality of provision; and
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

In addition, the Local Authority is required by legislation to maintain a service that provides information, to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, as listed in Schedule 1 of the Childcare Act 2006 and from 1 September publish this information electronically on the local authority website and update it at a minimum termly on 1 January, 1 April and 1 September, ensuring parents are aware of:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds;
- The option to continue to take up their child's 15 hour early education place until their child reaches compulsory school age;
- How to identify high quality provision in their area.

## The Stockton-on-Tees childcare market

Stockton-on-Tees has a robust childcare market with a combination of 47 privately owned and voluntary sector nursery/pre-school childcare providers, 91 childminders and 18 out of school clubs. Primary schools (60) play a key role in offering the majority of universal 15 hour places for 3 and 4 year olds, 90% are now offering 30 hour funded childcare places for working parents, 14 also deliver 2yr funded places, and many offer before and after school places for school aged children. Three Independent Schools also provide early years places for 3 and 4 year olds.

The Local Authority has an excellent relationship with childcare providers and good partnership working has ensured that the quality of settings in Stockton-on-Tees is exceeding the national average, ensuring the closing of the gap for the most vulnerable children.

The Local Authority works closely with the childcare sector to explore sufficiency issues and identify workable solutions to meet any gaps in provision.

### The report

This report considers what the Local Authority means as 'sufficient childcare' in the Borough and includes the following:

- Background and contextual information regarding population, Labour Market Information (LMI), early years and childcare numbers across the Borough.
- Information about the supply of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility, and quality of provision.
- The state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in particular ward areas and the amount and type of supply that currently exists.
- The quality and capacity of childcare providers.
- Details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

This Assessment Report will be updated and reported to the Council's Cabinet for endorsement annually. The Assessment Report will also be made available and accessible to parents on the

[www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings)

# Stockton-on-Tees in context

## Economic geography

### Location and economic profile

Stockton-on-Tees is a Borough of wide contrasts, a mixture of busy town centres, urban residential areas, and picturesque villages. The Borough covers approximately 20,000 hectares.

The principal settlements are Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Norton and Yarm; whilst Wynyard is expected to grow into a substantial residential location.

Stockton-on-Tees benefits from good access to the strategic road network - A1M, A19, A66 and A67 - and a network of bus routes that provide frequent services to connect residents to work and leisure destinations predominantly across Tees Valley, and for the movement of goods and services.

The Borough forms part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority wider functioning area, which is home to some 678,365 people.





## Demographic profile

In 2021, the population was 196,600 living in around 84,000 dwellings. It is reported that the population size increased by 2.6%, that is, 5,000 people between the ten years 2011 and 2021. The population in the Borough is projected to grow to 203,515 by 2032, which is an increase of 1.7% over the ten-year period 2022-2032. 19.6% of the population within Stockton-on-Tees are children and young people aged (0-15). There has been an increase of 3.9% in children aged under 15 years between 2011 - 2021.


### Estimated resident population in '000s (% of total population)

Projected Year	2025	2026	2027	2028
Age 0-4	9,654	9,481	9,256	9,124
	4.78%	4.69%	4.57%	4.50%
Age 5-9	11,871	11,479	11,144	10,853
	5.88%	5.68%	5.51%	5.36%
Age 10-14	13,350	13,118	12,995	12,650
	6.61%	6.49%	6.42%	6.24%
All ages	201,994	202,191	202,414	202,641

Source: [ONS Population projections for Local Authorities - Table 2](#)

The percentage of the Borough's population from a black minority ethnic background decreased from 5.4% in 2011 to 1.1% in 2021. The largest minority ethnic group is Asian or Asian British, this group accounts for 4.6% of the population, within this group, the largest BME group is Pakistani or British Pakistani.

Using indices of multiple deprivation, the Borough is ranked 113 most deprived out of the 317 local authorities in England. However, whilst 19.99% of the population live within the top 20% of most deprived areas of England, 19.38% live in the 20% least deprived areas.



4,013 funded  
9mth - 4yr olds

## Labour Market Information (LMI)

In 2023 there were estimated to be around 81,000 jobs in Stockton-on-Tees. The “Wholesale and Retail Trade” and “Human Health and Social Work Activities” sectors had 11,000 job (13.6% of jobs) respectively whilst “Manufacturing” had 10,000 jobs (12.3% of jobs). These sectors make up similar proportions of the labour market to figures for England.

Employee jobs by industry 2022	Stockton-on-Tees	Stockton-on-Tees %	North East %	Great Britain %
Mining And Quarrying	300	0.4	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	10,000	12.2	9.7	7.6
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	300	0.4	0.4	0.4
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management	700	0.9	0.7	0.7
Construction	6,000	7.3	4.4	4.9
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair of Vehicles	13,000	15.9	13.7	14.0
Transportation And Storage	4,500	5.5	5.2	5.0
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	6,000	7.3	8.0	8.0
Information And Communication	2,250	2.7	3.1	4.6
Financial And Insurance Activities	1,250	1.5	2.2	3.3
Real Estate Activities	900	1.1	1.5	1.9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	7,000	8.5	5.6	9.1
Administrative And Support Service Activities	6,000	7.3	8.0	9.0
Public Administration and Defence	3,500	4.3	7.1	4.7
Education	7,000	8.5	9.9	8.6
Human Health and Social Work Activities	11,000	13.4	16.0	13.5
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,250	1.5	2.1	2.4
Other Service Activities	1,250	1.5	2.0	2.0

Source: [Nomis](#)

## Economic activity (Apr 2024 - Mar 2025)

Economic activity refers to the number or percentage of people of working age who are in employment plus those that are unemployed (actively seeking and available for work). Economic activity rates in Stockton-on-Tees (78.0%) are higher than the North East (74.0%) and slightly lower than Great Britain (78.8%).

Of the people aged 16 to 64 years living in Stockton-on-Tees, 75.2% were employed as of March 2025. This is a slight increase compared with that as of December 2023 when the local rate was 74.1%.

Unemployment estimates are modelled to improve their precision compared to those based only on responses provided via the Annual Population Survey. Around 4,200 people aged 16 and over in Stockton-on-Tees were unemployed between April 2024 and March 2025. This is a rate of 4.2% which is slightly lower when compared to that of North East at 4.4%.

Figures and percentages relating to the population aged 16-64, unless stated				
Economic activity	Employment rate	Employees	Self-Employment	Unemployment (Model-based)  Percentage is proportion of economically active population
99,100 (78.0%)	95,200 (75.2%)	85,100 (67.6%)	9,900 (7.6%)	4,200 (4.2%)

Source: [Nomis](#)

## Patterns of work

The percentage employee jobs in full-time (more than 30 hours a week) in Stockton-on Tees is higher (69.1%) compared to the wider North East Region (68.3%) and the rate for Great Britain (68.8%).

Employee jobs (2021)	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Full-Time	69.1	68.3	68.8
Part-Time	30.9	31.7	31.2

Source: [Nomis](#)

## Income

Based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2024 the average gross weekly pay of Stockton-on-Tees residents is £647.90; lower than the average for the North East region (£661.20), and lower than Great Britain as a whole (£729.80).

### Average (Median) gross weekly pay 2024

Gross Weekly Pay	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Full-Time Workers	£647.90	£661.20	£729.80
Male Full-Time Workers	£735.90	£705.30	£777.50
Female Full-Time Workers	£542.80	£601.70	£673.20

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis ([Nomis](#))

Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.



## Potential impact from approved and strategic housing developments

The Local Authority considers any potential future children yield numbers in terms of planning sufficient childcare places from approved housing developments across the Borough. All housing developments must include a percentage of affordable housing within its development that is considered when planning any future childcare arrangements. The Local Authority also considers the impact on the 'childcare offer' of the other strategic sites (1,000 or more homes) and their likely pupil yield numbers.

Further information on housing plans can be found in the council's Local Plan [Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Local Plan 2019](#).



# The demand for childcare

## Population of children

Mid 2022 estimated child population by 5-year age band as a percentage of total by Ward area						
Ward	Age 0-4		Aged 5-9		Aged 10-14	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Billingham Central	382	5.17%	468	6.33%	850	11.50%
Billingham East	475	6.31%	538	7.15%	1,013	13.46%
Billingham North	281	4.34%	304	4.70%	585	9.04%
Billingham South	423	5.29%	475	5.94%	898	11.22%
Billingham West & Wolviston	179	3.08%	265	4.55%	444	7.63%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	271	4.28%	282	4.46%	553	8.74%
Eaglescliffe East	251	4.08%	379	6.16%	630	10.24%
Eaglescliffe West	268	4.21%	346	5.43%	614	9.64%
Fairfield	351	3.91%	469	5.22%	820	9.13%
Grangefield	146	4.60%	166	5.23%	312	9.83%
Hardwick & Salters Lane	554	6.74%	688	8.37%	1,242	15.12%
Hartburn	358	4.15%	446	5.17%	804	9.32%
Ingleby Barwick North	796	6.31%	1101	8.73%	1,897	15.04%
Ingleby Barwick South	440	4.09%	626	5.83%	1,066	9.92%
Mandale & Victoria	567	6.55%	643	7.43%	1,210	13.99%
Newtown	306	6.81%	305	6.79%	611	13.60%
Northern Parishes	363	5.47%	399	6.01%	762	11.48%
Norton Central	349	5.40%	356	5.51%	705	10.92%
Norton North	271	4.38%	300	4.85%	571	9.23%
Norton South	349	4.48%	361	4.64%	710	9.12%
Ropner	661	7.54%	644	7.34%	1,305	14.89%
Roseworth	490	5.77%	619	7.29%	1,109	13.07%
Southern Villages	110	4.17%	126	4.77%	236	8.95%
Stainsby Hill	370	5.08%	437	6.00%	807	11.08%
Stockton Town Centre	690	7.89%	667	7.63%	1,357	15.53%
Village	372	4.78%	506	6.50%	878	11.29%
Yarm	451	4.68%	549	5.70%	1,000	10.38%
Total	10,524		12,465		22,989	

Sources: Population Estimates for Electoral Wards in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex, mid-2021 and mid-2022 Mid-Year Population Estimates, UK, June 2022 [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/tablej24zeronetmigrationnaturalchangeonlyvariantenglandpopulationinagegroups](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/tablej24zeronetmigrationnaturalchangeonlyvariantenglandpopulationinagegroups)

## 2028 projected child population by 5-year age band as a percentage of total by Ward area

Ward	Age 0-4		Aged 5-9		Aged 10-14	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Billingham Central	361	4.87%	428	5.77%	806	10.86%
Billingham East	449	5.94%	492	6.51%	960	12.71%
Billingham North	266	4.09%	278	4.28%	554	8.54%
Billingham South	400	4.98%	434	5.41%	851	10.60%
Billingham West & Wolviston	169	2.90%	242	4.15%	421	7.21%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	256	4.03%	258	4.06%	524	8.25%
Eaglescliffe East	237	3.84%	346	5.61%	597	9.67%
Eaglescliffe West	253	3.96%	316	4.95%	582	9.10%
Fairfield	332	3.68%	429	4.76%	777	8.62%
Grangefield	138	4.33%	152	4.76%	296	9.29%
Hardwick & Salters Lane	524	6.35%	629	7.63%	1,177	14.28%
Hartburn	338	3.91%	408	4.71%	762	8.80%
Ingleby Barwick North	752	5.94%	1,007	7.95%	1,798	14.20%
Ingleby Barwick South	416	3.86%	572	5.31%	1,010	9.37%
Mandale & Victoria	536	6.17%	588	6.77%	1,147	13.21%
Newtown	289	6.41%	279	6.18%	579	12.84%
Northern Parishes	343	5.15%	365	5.48%	722	10.84%
Norton Central	330	5.09%	325	5.02%	668	10.31%
Norton North	256	4.12%	274	4.42%	541	8.71%
Norton South	330	4.22%	330	4.23%	673	8.62%
Ropner	625	7.10%	589	6.69%	1,237	14.06%
Roseworth	463	5.44%	566	6.64%	1,051	12.34%
Southern Villages	104	3.93%	115	4.35%	224	8.45%
Stainsby Hill	350	4.78%	400	5.47%	765	10.47%
Stockton Town Centre	652	7.43%	610	6.95%	1,286	14.66%
Village	352	4.50%	463	5.92%	832	10.66%
Yarm	426	4.41%	502	5.19%	948	9.80%
Total	9,945		11,396		21787	

Child population is projected to reduce by 5.5% by 2028.

Source: [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales)





## Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those registered with a disability

The Department for Education (DfE) 'Children with SEN' published 12/06/2025 based on where the pupil attends schools using the January 2025 school census indicated that there was a total of 1,873 pupils with Education, Health and Care Plan, an increase of 148 (8.57%) pupils on the previous year. Pupils receiving SEN support have increased by 187 (4.16%) pupils compared to the previous year.

Pupils in all school with EHC (Education Health and Care) Plans/Statements including independent schools and general hospital											
21/22			22/23			23/24			24/25		
Total pupils	Pupils with EHC Plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC Plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC plans	%
34,228	1,485	4.3	34,397	1,608	4.7	34,679	1,725	5.0	34,153	1,873	5.5

Pupils in all schools receiving SEN support including independent schools											
21/22			22/23			23/24			24/25		
Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%
34,228	2,221	12.3	34,397	4,360	12.7	34,679	4,491	13.0	34,153	4,678	13.7

## Children 0-4 with SEN or a Disability accessing early years in either a PVI (Private, Voluntary, or Independent) setting or school

For the academic year 2024/25 there were 98 children aged 0-5 assessed through the Early Years One Point Panel for additional support/funding who were accessing early years and childcare provision in Stockton-on-Tees, this is an increase of 4.25% compared to 2023/24.

Early Years Pupils in all schools with EHC (Education Health and Care) Plans											
21/22			22/23			23/24			24/25		
Total pupils	Pupils with EHC Plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC Plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC plans	%
1,321	7	0.5	1,404	15	1.1	1,503	10	0.7	1,660	7	0.4

Early Years Pupils in all schools receiving SEN support											
21/22			22/23			23/24			24/25		
Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%
3,938	105	2.7	4,046	101	2.5	4,216	98	2.3	4,311	84	1.9

# The supply of childcare

## Registered childcare

Data has been supplied by the Local Authority's Families Information Service (FIS).

Since September 2008 childcare for children aged less than 8 years old has had to be registered on one of two Ofsted childcare registers.

- The Early Years Register (EYR) - all childcare providers caring for children aged up to five are required to join the Early Years Register (unless exempt).
- The Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR) - this has two parts:
  - The compulsory part - providers of childcare to children aged 5 to 7 years must register on the compulsory part of the OCR (unless exempt);
  - The voluntary part - providers of childcare to children aged 8 and over, and care for children of any age that is activity based or provided in the child's own home, can choose to be registered on the voluntary part of the OCR if they meet the requirements.

The following section provides an overview of registered provision, including places in school nurseries.

A map providing the spread of childcare across Stockton-on-Tees can be found here

[Childcare\\_Map\\_July\\_2024.pdf](#) ([stocktoninformationdirectory.org](http://stocktoninformationdirectory.org)).

## Early years registered childcare

Type of provision	Number of registered childcare places					
	0-1 years	2 years	3-4 years	Total places	% all places	Number of providers
Childminding	94	118	123	<b>335</b>	5.7%	91
Day Nursery	537	732	839	<b>2108</b>	35.9%	40
Pre-school / Playgroup	34	87	79	<b>200</b>	3.4%	6
Maintained Nursery	0	154	3076	<b>3230</b>	55%	60
Totals by age range	665	1091	4117	<b>5873</b>		
% of all registered places	11.3%	18.6%	70.1%	<b>100%</b>		

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS July 2025

Comparing the number of childcare places to 2024, there has been a reduction of four childminding places, a reduction of 133 day nursery places and an increase of 18 pre-school places.

The number of childminders has reduced by 11, the number of day nurseries has decreased by one, and the number of playgroups has remained the same.

## Before and after school childcare

Type of provision	Number of before and after school childcare places (ages 5+)			
	Childminders	Day Nursery	Primary Schools	Total
Number of Places	247	256	3896	<b>4399</b>
% of all places	5.61%	5.82%	88.57%	<b>100%</b>
Number of providers	77	18	54	<b>149</b>

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS July 2025

Primary schools offer childcare which wraps around the school day. 54 (90%) of primary schools offer a school run breakfast club, five have an on-site childcare provider offering places, and one school has a provider close to the school offering places. 62% offer some form of after school childcare. Since September 2024 22 schools, and one private childcare provider have been funded to either create new wraparound places or expanding their current provision, so that parents of primary school age children can access wraparound care between the hours of 8am and 6pm to enable them to take up work or increase their working hours. To date 732 additional wraparound childcare places have been created, with more places to be created in the autumn term.

The government have announced that free breakfast clubs will be available to every primary school aged child for 30 minutes before the start of the school day, as part of the Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

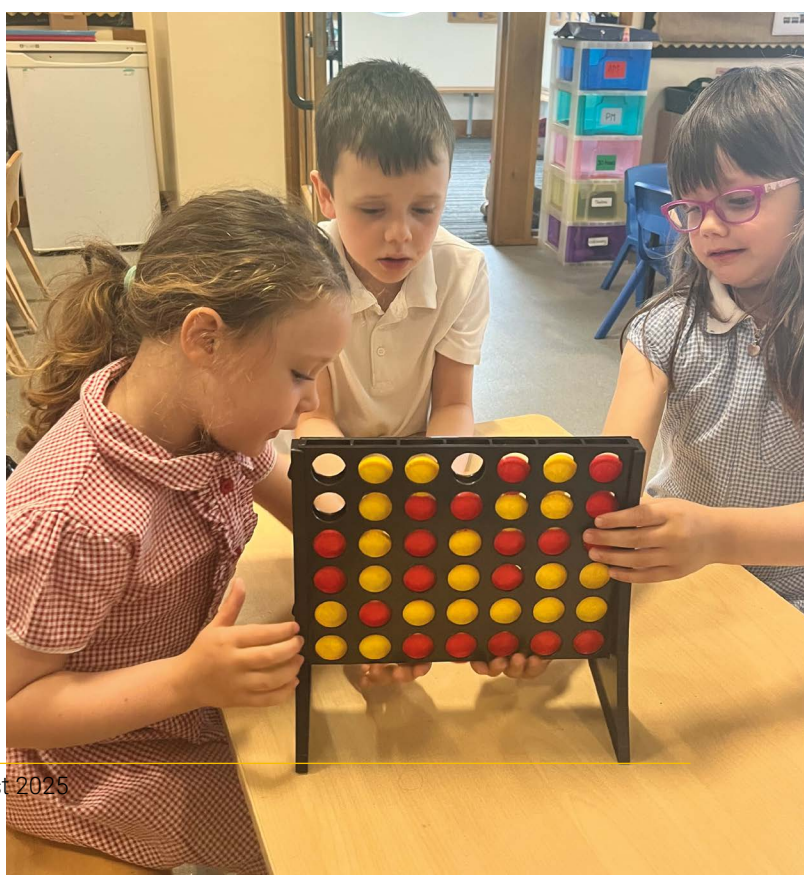
Free breakfast clubs mean no child starts school hungry and will help set children up for the day by providing a nutritious breakfast as well as time with friends to enjoy activities such as reading and crafts.

For parents, free breakfast clubs mean help with childcare at the start of the school day - at no extra costs. It means those parents can drop their children off half an hour earlier - helping parents get into work, giving them up to 95 additional hours back to juggle busy mornings, and saving working families up to £450 a year.

Early adopters commenced delivery of free breakfast clubs in April 2025 to test and learn prior to national roll out. Stockton-on-Tees has five primary schools who are early adopters.

## Holiday provision

Stockton-on-Tees has a range of holiday provision across the Borough available to parents/carers with school age children, delivered by private nurseries and childminders. A total of 35 providers and 97 childminders offer holiday provision. Some providers/childminders only offer places to children up to the age of 8 years old; the rest offer places to children up to age 11 years; one provider offers places up to the age of 13.





## Charges

The FIS hold detailed information on charges for individual settings, across a number of different charging patterns. Below are the average charges by setting type. For further information on individual providers' charges please visit [Early years and childcare directory listings - Stockton Information Directory](#)

Charging period	Type of provision/charges				
	Day Nursery	Childminder	Pre-School playgroup	Before School	After School
Per hour	£10.03	£5.28	£5.81	n/a	n/a
Per session / half day	£39.97	£26.24	£21.33	£5.31	£10.40
Per day	£59.52	£39.79	£39.32	n/a	n/a
Per week	£269.21	£171.96	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Stockton-on-Tees BC FIS July 2025

Compared to 2024 charges the cost of a full-time place in a day nursery has increased by 5%, a full-time place with a childminder has increased 6.8%, the daily cost with a playgroup has remained the same. The cost for a session at a before and out of school club has gone down by 6.8%.

Working parents can claim support with childcare costs through the Working Parent Entitlement which provides 30 hours funded childcare from September 2025, and Tax Free Childcare scheme which provides a contribution of up to 20% towards the cost of childcare, this also includes registered after school activities.

In April 2025 statutory guidance came into force that requires childcare providers to be open and transparent about additional charges. Providers, who look after 10 or more children, have until January 2026 to ensure their invoices clearly show funded hours, paid for hours and additional charges such as costs for food. This information is also required to be available on providers' websites, or if they do not have a website on the Stockton Information Directory.

## Opening times

As with charges there is considerable variation in opening times, both within and between different types of provision. For further information on an individual provider's or school opening and closing times please visit [Early years and childcare directory listings - Stockton Information Directory](#)

Most nurseries open from 7.30am until 6pm, playgroups tend to open from 9am until 3.30pm and operate term-time only. Childminders offer childcare from early in the morning (from 6am) until late in the evening (up to around 10pm), occasional overnight care and at weekends, including Sundays, they also offer care wrapped around the school the day. Currently four childminders open on Saturdays, and four childminders open on a Sunday.

Most of the before and after school provisions are open from 7.30am, closing at 6pm.

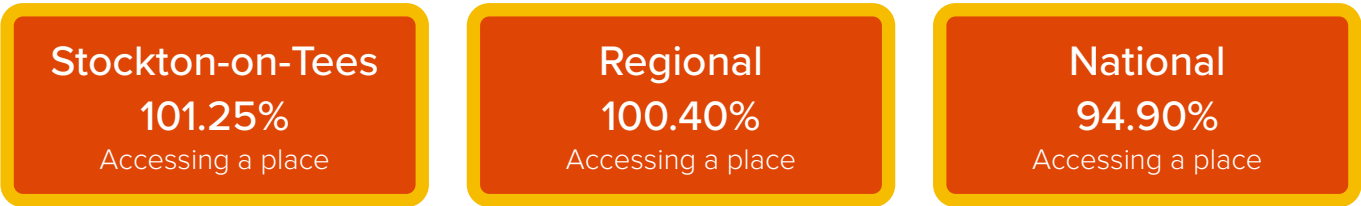
# Early Years funded places for children aged 9 months to 4 year olds

All children who meet the prescribed criteria can take up high quality early education, regardless of their parents’ ability to pay - benefiting their social, physical, and mental development and helping to prepare them for school. Evidence shows that regular good quality early education has lasting benefits for all children.

## Universal entitlement

The Local Authority is required by legislation to secure early education places by offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks for every child in the Borough from the relevant date; until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Take-up of the universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds as of January 2025 is 101.25%, which is higher than the regional average of 100.4% and the national average of 94.9%. The take up by age is 105.5% for 4 year olds and 102.9% for 3 year olds.

To note take-up is calculated based on 3 and 4 year old population figures for Stockton-on-Tees against actual take-up which will include children accessing a place from other Local Authority areas.



## Working parent entitlement - 15/30 hours funded childcare

Working parents (employed persons, self-employed persons, and parents on zero hours contracts) of three- and four-year-olds can access a total of 30 hours of funded childcare per week, over 38 weeks or the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year.

As of April 2024, working parents of 2 year old children have been able to access a total of 15 hours funded childcare per week over 38 weeks or the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year. As of September 2024, this became available for children aged from 9 months old.

From September 2025, working parents of children aged from 9 months to 4 years old will be able to access a total of 30 hours funded childcare per week.

Number of under 2s, 2yr olds, and 3&4yr olds taking up a 15/30 hour funded childcare place, by type ward			
Ward	Under 2s	2 Year Olds	3 & 4 Year Olds
Billingham Central	30	39	53
Billingham East	20	24	60
Billingham North	36	37	56
Billingham South	44	20	57
Billingham West & Wolviston	21	26	34
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	19	24	42
Eaglescliffe East	21	23	56
Eaglescliffe West	40	33	60
Fairfield	44	41	71
Grangefield	14	9	24
Hardwick	36	28	65
Hartburn	43	40	85
Ingleby North	75	78	137
Ingleby South	44	58	81
Mandale & Victoria	15	20	50
Newtown	8	6	21
Northern Parishes	56	40	58
Norton Central	17	29	32
Norton North	28	25	52
Norton South	20	24	51
Ropner	40	33	52
Roseworth	31	34	69
Southern Villages	19	16	20
Stainsby Hill	21	15	38
Stockton Town Centre	32	29	48
Village	36	32	51
Yarm	49	53	79
Out of Area	146	89	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1618</b>

Source: Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS July 2025



Compared to 2024 30 hour working parent entitlement take-up for 3&4 year olds has decreased by 18 places and 15 hour places for 2 year olds has increased by 75 places.



### Early learning entitlement - 15 hours funded childcare for 2 year olds

Take-up of early learning places for 2 year olds where parents are on certain government benefits			
Ward	No. accessing a place	No. eligible as per DWP data	Percentage take-up
Billingham Central	14	29	48.27%
Billingham East	30	37	81.08%
Billingham North	2	7	28.57%
Billingham South	16	27	59.26%
Billingham West & Wolviston	0	3	0%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	4	8	50.00%
Eaglescliffe East	8	7	114.29%.
Eaglescliffe West	3	6	50.00%
Fairfield	1	7	14.29%
Grangefield	7	9	77.78%
Hardwick	37	50	74.00%
Hartburn	7	5	140.00%
Ingleby North	1	15	6.67%
Ingleby South	6	7	85.71%
Mandale & Victoria	36	52	69.23%
Newtown	30	43	69.77%
Northern Parishes	1	6	16.67%
Norton Central	19	26	73.08%
Norton North	2	5	40.00%
Norton South	14	31	45.15%
Ropner	33	42	78.57%
Roseworth	29	47	61.70%
Southern Villages	4	6	66.67%
Stainsby Hill	11	20	55.00%
Stockton Town Centre	45	65	69.23%
Village	21	27	77.78%
Yarm	6	12	50.00%
Out of area	10	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>66.28%</b>

Source Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS July 2025

**397 2yr olds  
accessing an Early  
Learning place**

At the end of July 2025, there were 397 two year olds accessing a free childcare place, this equates to 66.28% of eligible children accessing a place. Compared to summer 2024 data this is a decrease of 20.66%. The percentage take-up is calculated from information received from DWP on the number of potentially eligible 2yr olds and does not include applications received direct through the citizen portal on the Council website.

## Disability Access Fund

The Disability Access Fund is available for childcare providers to claim an additional £938 per child per year for a child attending their setting who is attracting Disability Living Allowance. It was introduced in April 2017 and is for children who are claiming early years entitlement for children from aged 9 months to 4 years old. A provider can spend the funding on resources, equipment, minor adaptations, or staff training to benefit the child. In 24/25 71 children benefitted from this funding, this is an increase of 47.92% compared to 23/24 data.

## Early Years Pupil Premium

Early Years Pupil Premium is an extra amount of funding providers receive to help them support their most disadvantaged children. Children qualify if they aged from 9 months to 4 years old and are receiving government-funded early education, and their parents receive benefits used to access free school meals.

As at summer 2025, 924 children benefitted from this funding. This is an increase of 3.58% compared to summer 2024 data, this is due to the funding now being available to children aged from 9 months old to 4 years old.



## Geographical distribution of 0-4 population, early years childcare places and vacancies

The following table details the number of early years childcare places and vacancies based on Local Authority ward areas.

Ward	Population (0-4)	Registered Places					Vacancies				
		Under 2s	2	3-4	Total	% places by population (0-4)	Under 2s	2	3-4	Total	% places by population (0-4)
Billingham Central	382	6	41	87	134	35.08%	2	4	2	8	5.97%
Billingham East	475	30	68	163	261	54.95%	2	7	7	16	6.13%
Billingham North	281	2	2	2	6	2.14%	1	1	1	3	50.00%
Billingham South	423	33	77	163	273	64.54%	3	13	16	32	11.72%
Billingham West & Wolviston	179	13	14	101	128	71.51%	2	3	4	9	7.03%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	271	11	25	105	141	52.03%	2	8	7	17	12.06%
Eaglescliffe East	251	106	75	194	375	149.40%	5	6	15	26	6.93%
Eaglescliffe West	268	7	16	81	104	38.81%	1	6	12	19	18.27%
Fairfield	351	17	22	116	155	44.16%	1	5	9	15	9.68%
Grangefield	146	13	27	48	88	60.27%	2	0	1	3	3.41%
Hardwick & Salters Lane	554	2	22	79	103	18.59%	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Hartburn	358	48	39	160	247	68.99%	14	18	32	64	25.91%
Ingleby Barwick North	796	20	29	108	157	19.72%	1	5	1	7	4.46%
Ingleby Barwick South	440	58	77	211	346	78.64%	4	8	10	22	6.36%
Mandale & Victoria	567	36	58	175	269	47.44%	6	9	16	31	11.52%
Newtown	306	18	34	57	109	35.62%	5	12	18	35	32.11%
Northern Parishes	363	50	32	88	170	46.83%	0	0	1	1	0.59%
Norton Central	349	16	28	80	124	35.53%	1	4	10	15	12.10%
Norton North	271	5	6	71	82	30.26%	1	0	0	1	1.22%
Norton South	349	15	40	75	130	37.25%	1	1	12	14	10.77%



Ward	Population (0-4)	Registered Places					Vacancies				
		Under 2s	2	3-4	Total	% places by population (0-4)	Under 2s	2	3-4	Total	% places by population (0-4)
Ropner	661	16	41	89	146	22.09%	7	10	20	37	25.34%
Roseworth	490	21	48	158	227	46.33%	13	12	17	42	18.50%
Southern Villages	110	0	0	26	26	23.64%	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stainsby Hill	370	57	64	123	244	65.95%	2	10	22	34	13.93%
Stockton Town Centre	690	0	34	88	122	17.68%	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Village	372	32	58	149	239	64.25%	12	14	22	48	20.08%
Yarm	451	30	43	159	232	51.44%	4	3	10	17	7.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10524</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>2956</b>	<b>4638</b>	<b>44.07%</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>11.13%</b>

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS July 2025

To be noted, the number of registered places above is based on full-time equivalent places i.e. the number of places as per providers Ofsted registration. Some settings may choose to operate with fewer places than they are registered for, for example a childminder may be registered for six children but could choose to care for no more than four children. The number of vacant places is also based on full-time equivalent places i.e. 40-hour places, but this could equate to meeting the needs of more than one child if parents only required part-time provision.

# Quality of provision

Stockton-on-Tees has a good range of quality childcare across the Borough with all provision graded good or outstanding by Ofsted as of July 2025 where inspections have been undertaken. In 2024 group settings were previously 100% which has been maintained, childminders were 95% graded good or outstanding so an increase of 5%. Support and challenge is given to settings and childminders that are less than good to improve provision and Ofsted gradings.



If you would like to read the latest Ofsted report for an individual setting or childminder these can be found on the Stockton Information Directory on each childcare provider record at [www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings).

## Expansion to childcare

As part of the Government's expansion to funded childcare Stockton-on-Tees has worked with providers and schools to create additional places to meet demand for the final phase of the expansion. An additional 219 places have been created for children aged 9 months to 2 years old, the majority of which are within the private sector. Four schools were also successful with bids for the School Based Nursery Capital Grant to create additional places from September 2025 for 2 year olds and 3&4 years olds.

Work continues with the sector to create more funded places in ward areas where demand is high.





