

Early Years Privacy Notice

Local Authority use of personal data in relation to the Early Years Census and the Free Early Education Entitlement

The **Local Authority (LA)** receives information about children attending early years settings as part of the annual Early Years Census and the Free Early Education Entitlement headcounts.

Essex County Council holds this personal data and uses it to:

- support children's learning and development
- calculate the amount of free early education entitlement funding to be allocated to each setting
- inform decisions about funding allocations for the LA's early years provision
- carry out its other statutory functions such as the assessment of any special educational needs a child may have.

It also uses the information to derive statistics on, for example, the number of additional early years places that will be required to meet future demand. The statistics are used in such a way that individual children cannot be identified.

Essex County Council handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998, and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Access to information is conducted on a strictly need to know basis. Information is held securely and confidentially. Where information is shared this will be done in an appropriate secure manner.