

The purpose of this paper is to share how academies can set up provision for two, three and four-year olds.

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Academies are able to lower their age range and register children from the age of two as pupils of the academy.

The guidance below entitled “Making Significant Changes to an open academy” 2022 gives details of how academies can set up or lower the age range of existing provision.

[Making significant changes to an academy: January 2024 \(applies from April 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Note particularly the section entitled ‘**Age range changes**’ which explains that Academies rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ at their last Ofsted inspection can propose to change the age range of their school by up to two years (including adding nursery provision, but excluding adding a sixth-form) by following the fast-track process.

Children not yet two

If an academy is providing childcare for children who are **not yet two** they must have a separate early years registration. Information relating to this registration process can be found by following this link:

[Childminders and childcare providers: register with Ofsted - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Ratios

Refer to: [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Provision **must** be led by a minimum Level 3 suitably qualified person.

Census

Children to be recorded via the school census, including eligible two year olds.

Funding: how to claim early education funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (see links below)

- [2, 3 & 4 Year old funding – Suffolk Learning](#)
- [How to register for the Provider Portal – Suffolk Learning](#)