

2018/19

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report



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INTRODUCTION

This report sets out to demonstrate how Devon County Council’s Early Years and Childcare Service is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare. Information on what childcare sufficiency means in Devon is explained in the [Childcare Sufficiency in Devon factsheet](#). This includes:

- What is childcare?
- The Early Years and Childcare Service
- The Childcare Sufficiency Duty
 - Duty to secure sufficient childcare
 - What is considered to be ‘sufficient childcare’?
 - Duty to assess childcare

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PART A: A PICTURE OF DEVON

A PICTURE OF DEVON – PUTTING CHILDCARE INTO CONTEXT

Population

Over the last year¹ the population of 0 to 16-year-olds has increased by 5.2% and now stands at 139020. Exeter, Mid Devon and South Devon saw an increase in the population whereas all other districts² saw a decrease. The largest decrease in population of 0 to 16-year-olds was seen in Torridge (-6.9%), followed by West Devon (-6.4%) and North Devon (-6.3%).

The population of under-five-year-olds across Devon has decreased slightly by 0.3% over the last year and is predicted to continue to decrease.

The population of two-, three- and four-year-olds eligible for the Early Years Funding is predicted to continue to decrease over the next 12 months.

Housing Developments

There are several areas in Devon where new housing developments will significantly increase the population and therefore the demand in childcare.

The Early Years and Childcare Service work closely with the School Place Planning Team to ensure requirements for early years provision is considered in responses to [District Council Local Plans](#) and [Section 106 requests](#). Where new schools are built, early years places will be included.

Other information

- [Devon Facts and Figures website](#) - this brings together a range of statistics, gleaned from a number of sources, about the people of Devon, their social, employment, and economic circumstances, and the commercial and natural environment in which they live.
- [Devonomics website](#) – information on Devon’s Economy.

All relevant data is used to inform decision making in relation to the sufficiency of early years and childcare provision in Devon.

¹ Population of children as at 31/12/2017 compared with population of children as at 31/12/2018 – Health Data.

² Devon is divided into 8 districts. These are Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge, South Devon (sometimes referred to as South Hams), Teignbridge and West Devon.

To note:

- The hourly rate for three- and four-year-olds increased from £4.06 in April 2018 to £4.08 in September to include deprivation funding.
- The universal credit has been rolled out to all parts of Devon.
- The government closed the Childcare Vouchers scheme to new entrants on 4 October 2018. This has been replaced by [Tax Free Childcare](#).
- The only local authority run day nursery has been successfully contracted out.

PART B: SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Types and descriptions of early years and childcare providers in Devon can be found on the [Types of Early Years and Childcare Providers factsheet](#)

Table 1: Number of childcare providers by type of care as at 31 March 2019

Type of Childcare	2017/18		2018/19	
	No. of Providers	No. of Places	No. of Providers	No. of Places
Day Nursery	124	9324	124	9425
Pre-school playgroup	222	5650.5	202	5191.5
Nursery unit of independent schools	15	502.5	15	556
Academy nursery class	28	999.5	42	1431
Maintained nursery class	53	2014	53	1956.5
Out of school club	164	7215	171	7035
Weekend Club	4	35	4	44.5
Holiday Scheme	74	4862	78	4543
Childminder	544	3434*	492	2917*
Home Childcarer	122	-	115	-
All Provision	1232	33765.5	1296	33099.5

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

**Total number of places for under-5 -year-olds*

To note:

- There were 20 schools that became academies in 18/19, eleven of these already ran early years provision. The number of early years places in academies continues to increase. Devon has seen 14 new academy nursery classes in 18/19; some of these were existing academies that extended their age range and others were schools that had an extended age range and then converted to become an academy.
- Sherford Vale School was the only new school with early years provision in Devon which opened in September 2018.
- 16 schools consulted on extending their age range in 18/19; 8 were maintained and 8 academies.
- Fewer schools are setting up governor run preschools or preschools run through academy trusts; most new provision in schools is run as a nursery class.
- The number of childminders continues to decrease in line with the national trend.
- Voluntary sector pre-schools continue to close but are often replaced by provision that is run by schools. This provision usually offers more places than was available in the pre-school. This is particularly seen in rural areas.
- 3 pre-schools run by the Early Years Alliance closed this year as they were no longer viable.

Table 2: Number of providers by sector from 2015 to 2019

SECTOR	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Private	909	64.5%	847	63.4%	793	62.0%	787	63.2%	728	61.6%
Voluntary	269	19.1%	250	18.7%	223	17.4%	183	14.7%	165	14.0%
Governor Run	115	8.2%	109	8.2%	123	9.6%	113	9.1%	102	8.6%
Academy	33	2.3%	43	3.2%	62	4.8%	81	6.5%	107	9.1%
Local Authority	48	3.4%	53	4.0%	47	3.7%	50	4.0%	52	4.4%
Independent	20	1.4%	19	1.4%	20	1.6%	19	1.5%	19	1.6%
Other	14	1.0%	12	0.9%	10	0.8%	10	0.8%	6	0.5%
Primary Care Trust	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	2	0.2%
Total	1410		1335		1280		1245		1181	

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

The overall number of providers has decreased from 1410 in 2015 to 1181 in 2019. The number of private providers (groups providers and childminders) has decreased by 181 over the last five years whereas the number of academy run providers has increased.

The percentage of private providers in Devon has decreased by 2.9% from 2015 to 2019 and percentage of voluntary providers has decreased by 5.1%. However the percentage of academy run provision and governor run provision has increased.

SUPPLY OF CHILDCARE

The supply of childcare in Devon is currently measured in Full Time Equivalent Places (FTEs). More information on how FTEs are defined and calculated can be found on the [Calculating the Supply of Childcare – FTE places factsheet](#)

Annual Survey of Providers 2019

The Early Years and Childcare Service conducts an Annual Survey of Providers in which all early years and childcare providers are asked the total number of children they can take at any one time. There are also questions relating to the childcare workforce, admission of two-year-olds, provision for Early Years Funding, charges, care for atypical and irregular hours. For more information please see the [Annual Survey of Providers webpage](#), which includes the analysis of this year's [Annual Survey of Providers 2019](#).

Level of childcare provision

This year there has been a slight decrease in the level of provision for all age groups. This is due to decrease in the supply of childcare across all types of provision.

There is now one FTE place for 24.7% of the population of under- two-year-olds, 75.0% of the two-year-old population and 81.1% of the three- and four-year-old population.

There is one before school place for 10.7% of the population of primary school aged children, one after school place for 10.9% of the population of primary school aged children, one weekend place for 2.2% of the population of primary school aged children and one holiday place for 15.4% of the population of primary school aged children.

DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE

Information on childcare in Devon is available from the communications team through the [Education and Families website](#) and through the [online Community Service Directory, Pinpoint](#).

If you are a parent who is unable to find suitable childcare, it is important that you tell the Early Years and Childcare Service so that we can help you find childcare if it is available and feedback from parents helps inform our sufficiency planning. To do this, please contact the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (and ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

Parent Feedback Forms and Childcare Brokerage

93 online parent feedback forms have been submitted in 2018/19 relating to 122 children.

The majority of these were from parents in Barnstaple (23), followed by Bideford (21) and then Exeter (13). The majority of forms complete stated that parents were struggling to find childcare for 4-11-year-olds (50 children), followed by under-two-year-olds (23), two-year-olds (21) and three- or four-year-olds (20).

62 parents requested to be contacted to further discuss their issues with finding childcare. The Family Information Service followed up on these enquiries.

In 2018/19 there was just one instance where the childcare brokerage service were unable to find suitable childcare for parents. This was for out of school provision in Cullompton.

Any issues raised by the Childcare Brokerage service have been followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Service so the issues could be addressed, and actions taken where appropriate. It must be noted that there needs to be a large enough demand for childcare to make it a viable business proposition for providers to offer the places.

Estimate Use

The estimated use of childcare for under-five-year-olds is calculated using data captured by the [Department for Education's Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2018](#). For more information please see: [Assessing the Sufficiency of Childcare](#).

The Early Years and Childcare Service analyse this data on the supply and estimated demand of childcare to establish areas where there may be a lack of provision. These are discussed with the locality teams and childcare sufficiency '[hot spot' areas](#) are identified so that action can be taken to address the issue.

QUALITY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

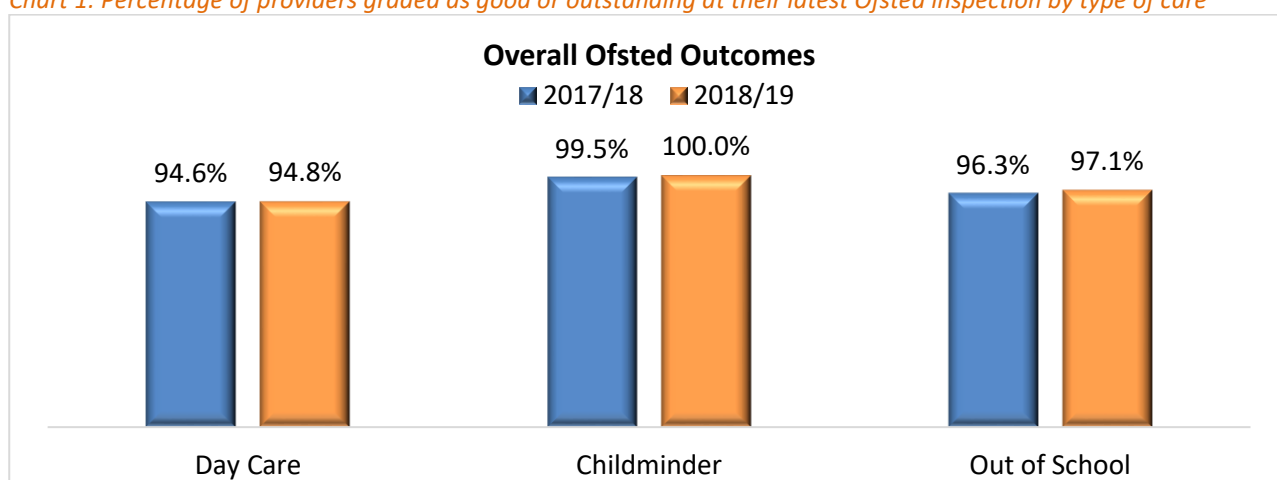
Ofsted outcomes

For an explanation on the role of Ofsted, the inspection framework and a description of the Ofsted judgements please see the [Ofsted Inspections and Outcomes factsheet](#).

Good news

- The percentage of providers in Devon graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted at their most recent Ofsted inspection has increased slightly from 97.1% as at March 2018³ to 97.2% as at March 2019⁴.
- The percentage of providers in Devon graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted remains higher than the national (95.2%) and South West (96.7%) average⁵ (December 2018).

Chart 1: Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection by type of care



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

Good news

- The percentage of day care providers graded as good or outstanding has increased by 0.2% this year. School Ofsted inspections and reports started to include early years judgements from September 2015. Only those schools that have been inspected since September 2015 have been included.
- The percentage of childminders and out of school provision graded as good or outstanding has increased also increased.

³ DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2018), Early Years and Childcare Service, Percentage of active providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2018 – percentage of all those inspected with children in attendance (does not include those providers graded as met or not met).

⁴ DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service, Percentage of active providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2019 – percentage of all those inspected with children in attendance (does not include those providers graded as met or not met).

⁵ OFSTED (2019), Ofsted Official statistics: Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes, Table 7: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2018, by region and local authority (Ofsted National Statistics for March 2019 may not be published until Autumn 2019)

Outcomes of inspections in 2018/19

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, Ofsted inspected 203 early years and childcare providers in Devon where there were children in attendance and the provider was graded.

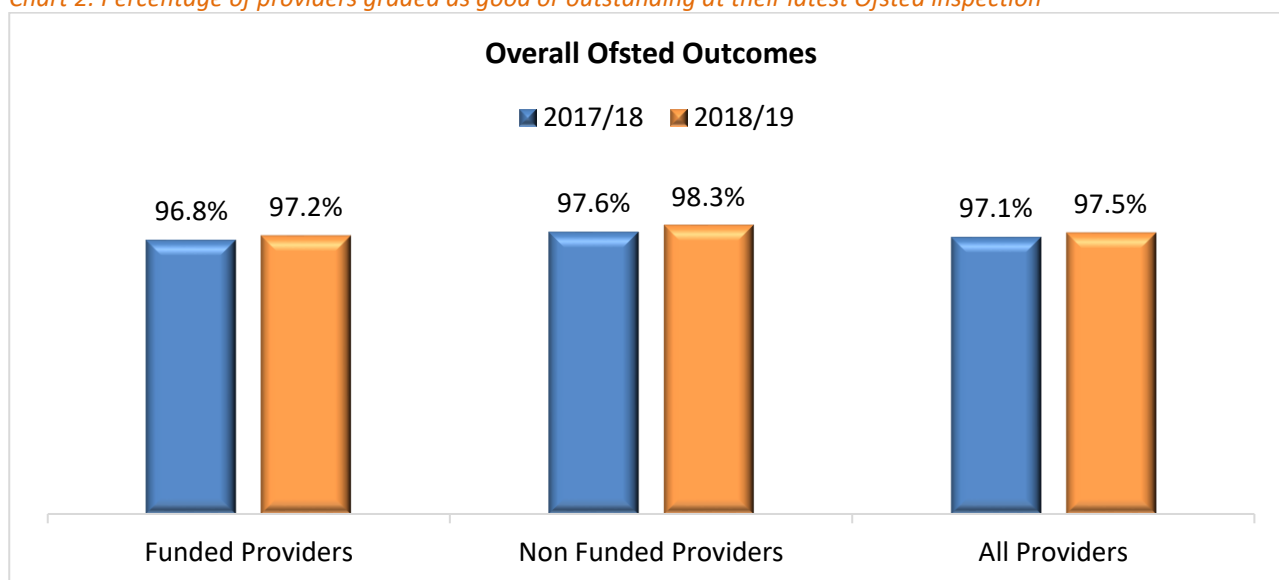


Good news

- 80.0% (12) of providers previously graded as inadequate or requires improvement, have now been re-inspected and graded as good or outstanding. This is 8.3% of providers inspected in 2018/19.
- 91.5% (119) of providers previously graded as good or outstanding, have now been re-inspected and are still graded as good or outstanding. This is 82.1% of providers inspected in 2018/19.

Early Years Inspections

Chart 2: Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

The percentage of funded providers graded as good or outstanding has slightly decreased by 0.4% to 97.2% this year and the percentage for non-funded providers has increased to 98.3%.

Educational Attainment

High quality early years and childcare provision leads to better outcomes for children. This can be monitored through the Early Years Foundations Stage Profile outcomes.

For further statistics and information on the outcomes of the 2018 EYFS profile please see the [EYFS Profile Headlines Factsheet](#).

EARLY YEARS WORKFORCE

Recruiting and retaining practitioners is still an ongoing problem for providers at all levels. This is mainly due to rates of pay and qualification requirements.

In line with national statistics the number of childminders across Devon continues to decrease and as a result the Early Years and Childcare Service is continuing with a campaign to promote childminding and to recruit more childminders into the profession. The campaign included posters, social media promotion that is being specially targeted to hot spot areas where more childcare is needed (especially rural areas of Devon) and IT promotion e.g. screens in County Hall.



The Early Years and Childcare Service have continued to develop our e-learning packages for providers.

- Introduction to Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Communication
- Language and literacy
- Personal, social, emotional and physical development
- Introduction to play work

Key areas for 2019/20

New e-learning and blended training packages have been developed and will be launched in 2019/20 that will provide a range of easily accessible learning and development opportunities for providers. These will include:

- Blended Paediatric – day one e-learning, day two taught skills learning.
- Preparing to be a childminder

This will give practitioners greater flexibility and improved access and take up of training.

The Early Years and Childcare Service will continue to work with the DEL Learning Pool platform to ensure that it is user friendly for practitioners and regular training bulletins issued via our communication links will help to improve the take up of learning and development opportunities across Devon.

The service will be looking at ways of promoting early years and childcare as a career option, including the possible development of a short introduction course, careers events at school colleges and social media campaigns.

Day care provision

Parents will usually be charged between £4.00 and £5.00⁶ per hour for day care provision for an under-five-year-old depending on location, type of day care and age of child. On average, parents pay £4.50 per hour for day care provision which has increased from £4.40 in 2017/18 (an increase of 2.3%).

The most expensive average charge per hour for day care is found at nursery units of independent schools and day nurseries, with the least expensive charge per hour found in pre-schools.

On average, parents pay a higher rate for younger children. This is because there is a legal requirement for a higher adult to child ratio for younger children so the cost of offering a place is higher for the provider. The average charge per hour for an under-two-year-old is £4.64 per hour, which has increased from £4.50 in 2017/18.

The Early Years and Childcare Service has approved 645 childcare providers to offer funded places for two-year-olds. Providers are required to have a good or outstanding Ofsted outcome if they want to take funding for two-year-olds. This is paid at a rate of £4.90 per hour per two-year-old. Outside of this entitlement, parents are charged on average £4.58 per hour for a two-year-old place, which has increased from £4.45 in 2017/18 but remains lower than the hourly rate paid by the Early Years and Childcare Service.

The Early Years and Childcare Service also currently funds 756 childcare providers to provide places for three- and four-year-olds as part of the early years funding. This is paid at a rate of £4.08 per hour per three- or four-year-old. Outside this entitlement, parents are charged on average £4.48 per hour for a three- or four-year-old, which has increased from £4.38 in 2018/19.

The extended entitlement (30 hours) may have served to increase charges for three- and four-year-old places.

Day care costs in Devon are less than those seen nationally⁷. However, the weekly wages are lower in Devon⁸ and therefore parents are spending a higher percentage of one parent's weekly wage (19.2%) on day care (25 hours a week) than nationally (17.7%).

Out of school provision

Parents will usually be charged between £4.50 and £10.50⁹ per session for out of school care depending on length of care, location and type of activity involved. On average, parents pay £5.11 for a before school session increasing from £4.50 in 2017/18, and £10.44 for an after school session increasing from £10.00 in 2017/18.

⁶ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2019](#)

⁷ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2019), Childcare Costs Survey 2018 - <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2018> [Accessed May 2019]

⁸ Based on full-time (mean) gross weekly pay – resident analysis 2018 (Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

⁹ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2019](#)

Out of school care costs in Devon are less than those seen nationally¹⁰. However, the weekly wages are lower in Devon and therefore parents are spending approximately 8.9% of one parent's weekly wages on out of school care (15 hours a week, 5 after school sessions) which is higher than seen nationally (8.2%).

Holiday care

Parents usually pay between £36.00 and £45.00¹¹ per day for group-based holiday care depending on location, the needs of the child and activities involved. On average, parents pay £40.43 per day for group-based holiday care, which has increased from £36.15 in 2016/17.

On average, holiday costs in Devon are more expensive than those seen nationally (£134.66 per week nationally, £202.15 per week in Devon)¹². This may be due to a large proportion of employment being seasonal, creating a greater market for childcare during holiday times. Also, holiday provision may offer a wider range of activities. These activities are more expensive for the childcare providers to offer and the costs are passed on to families.

Tax Free Childcare

Tax Free Childcare is a government scheme to help parents with the cost of childcare. Eligible parents can open an online childcare account that they can use to pay for childcare. The government will top-up the money parents pay into the account. For every £8 parents pay in, the government will add an extra £2. Therefore, parents with children under 12 can receive up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs (or under 17 and up to £4,000 for disabled children). Providers will only be able to receive Tax-Free Childcare payments from parents if they have [signed up to receive payments from the scheme](#).

83.4% of all providers responding to the Annual Survey of Providers reported that they had registered to be able to receive payments from the Tax Free Childcare scheme helping to make their childcare more affordable for parents. This has increased from 78.5% in 2017/18. This equates to 92.5% of all full time equivalent (FTE) places available for under-five-year-olds at those providers responding to the annual survey, are available at providers who have registered.

HMRC now provide local authorities with a list of those providers who are registered for Tax Free Childcare. This data shows that 75.0% of all providers are registered. The Early Years and Childcare Service will follow up with those providers who are not registered.

¹⁰ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2018), Childcare Costs Survey 2018 - <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2018> [Accessed May 2019]

¹¹ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2019](#)

¹² FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2018), Holiday Childcare Survey 2018 - <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/holiday-childcare-survey-2018> [Accessed July 2018]

The HM Government Childcare Service have the Childcare Choices website:



All the government
childcare offers in one place

childcarechoices.gov.uk



This website brings together all the government childcare offers in one place, helping parents find the right childcare support to suit them including Tax-Free Childcare, two-year-old funding, universal funding for three- and four-year-olds and extended (30 hours) funding for eligible three- and four-year-olds.

Parents who experience difficulties in accessing childcare because of the affordability, should contact Devon County Council through the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

LOCATION OF CHILDCARE

Distribution of childcare

The location of provision is one factor that determines the accessibility of childcare. The childcare option becomes less accessible if parents have to travel more than a reasonable distance to access it.

Devon County Council's School Place Planning team consider 2 miles as a reasonable walking distance for under-11-year-olds. The Early Years and Childcare Service have applied this policy to early years provision.

Road and public transport links may also determine the accessibility of childcare. This in turn limits the available childcare options for parents and reduces choice.

Table 3 helps to gauge the distances between homes and providers.

Table 3: Percentage of Devon County Council's administrative area within a five-, three- and two-mile radius of day care provision by type of provider

Type of provider	Percentage of Devon County Council's administrative area ¹³ within			
	5 miles ¹⁴	3 miles	2 miles	1 mile
All providers	99.6%	93.3%	77.6%	36.1%
Day care providers ¹⁵	99.5%	93.0%	76.8%	35.1%
Out of school providers ¹⁶	96.8%	83.7%	63.1%	27.4%
All funded providers	99.4%	91.9%	74.1%	32.7%
Providers offering the early years education funding for eligible two-year-olds	99.3%	90.8%	71.0%	31.2%
Providers offering the universal early years education funding for three- and four-year-olds	99.4%	91.9%	74.0%	32.7%
Providers offering the extended entitlement for eligible three- and four-year-olds	99.1%	90.6%	71.7%	30.9%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

Almost all, 99.5%, of Devon County Councils administrative area is within a five-mile radius of day care provision and 99.4% is within a five-mile radius of funded provision.

76.8% of Devon County Councils administrative area is within a two-mile radius of day care provision and 74.1% is within a two-mile radius of funded provision which is considered a reasonable walking distance for under 11-year-olds.

The majority (96.8%) of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a five-mile radius of out of school provision and 63.1% is within a two-mile radius.

Rurality and sparsity make the planning of all services in Devon difficult and it should be recognised that some families living in rural and isolated areas may need to travel some distance by car to access childcare. It is likely this will be on a travel to work route or on a school site.

¹³ This analysis only refers to early years and childcare providers in the Devon County Council's local authority area and does not include providers situated in neighbouring local authorities.

¹⁴ Distance is measured as a straight line from the child's home to the childcare provider.

¹⁵ Day care provision in this analysis includes day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, nursery units of independent schools, maintained nursery schools and classes, academy nursery classes and childminders.

¹⁶ Out of school provision in this analysis includes out of school clubs, weekend clubs, holiday clubs and childminders.

Premises

For more information on the types of premises of early years and childcare providers please see the [Early Years and Childcare Provider Premises factsheet](#). This analysis relates to information gathered on the [Annual Survey of Providers in Spring 2019](#).



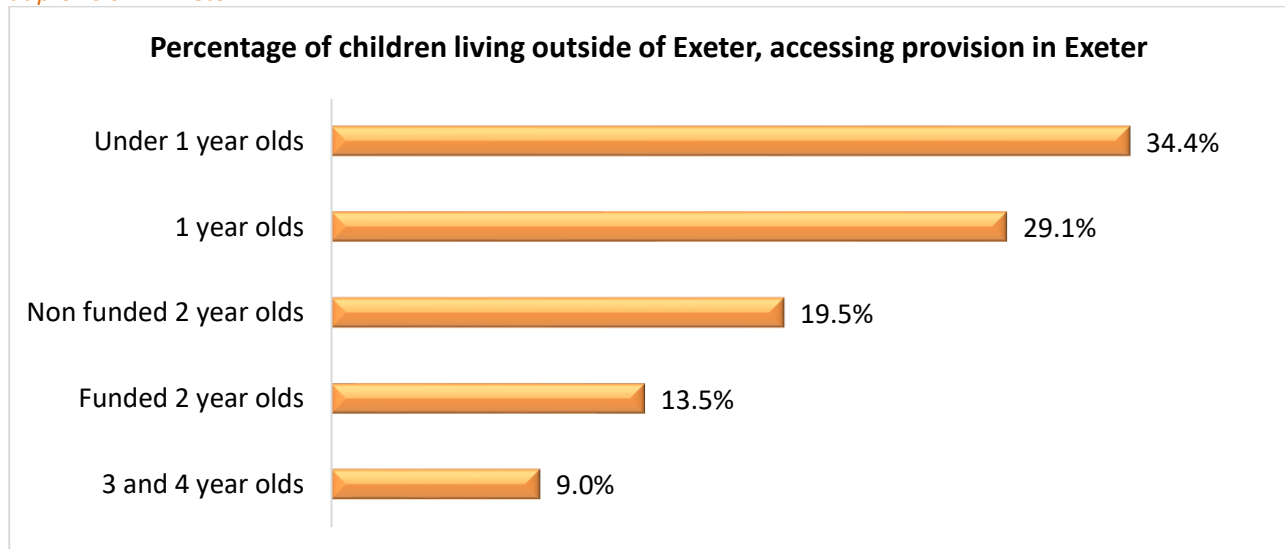
Childcare provision is in convenient locations with 51% of funded group providers located on school sites and 52.8% of Primary, Nursery and All-through schools have a nursery class or school run early years provision which has increased from 42.3% last year. This is convenient for parents who also have primary-school-aged children, as they can drop off and pick up children at the same time. 17% of funded group providers are located in community buildings often within a reasonable walking distance of the family home. A further 29% of funded group providers are situated in other non-domestic buildings, which are often situated on travel-to-work routes.

There are a further 492 childminders in Devon who provide childcare provision in their own homes. Parents may choose childminders that are close to their home, close to their work or somewhere along their travel-to-work route. Many also provide out of school care and may offer drop-off and pick-up services to local schools.

Travel to work – Exeter

This year the early years and childcare service undertook a short survey asking providers in Exeter to tell us the age and home postcode of non-funded children under two attending their provision. This was combined with data already held on funded children attending those providers.

Chart 3: Percentage of children living outside of Exeter attending Exeter provision as a proportion of total attendance at provision in Exeter



This shows that there is a tendency for more non-funded children from outside of Exeter to attend provision in Exeter than funded children. This corresponds to a higher proportion of younger children attending Exeter provision from outside the area than older children.

This suggests parents are using provision close to where they work when the child is younger, usually full day care provision and as the child gets older uses provision closer to their home or where the child is likely to go to school. This will be considered when assessing the sufficiency of places in the city.

SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

As there were a very low number of instances where the service has not been able to match parents to suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient early years and childcare provision in most parts of Devon to meet the needs of the majority of parents.

Nonetheless, the Early Years and Childcare Service recognise that there will be areas where there may be a lack of childcare in the future. This is due to:

- Increased demand for three- and four-year-old places as the take up of the extended entitlement increases as more families start work or increase their hours. This will fluctuate throughout the year due to seasonal employment.
- Places for two-year-olds as three- and four-year-olds may fill the capacity (although evidence suggests that this has not happened so far as there is enough capacity within the sector)
- Planned housing developments – new housing increases the population in an area and therefore increases the demand for childcare. Where new schools are included in large developments, early years provision will be included as part of the school.

This will be monitored and reviewed.

Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots

Data held by the early years and childcare service about provision in Devon is assessed in a holistic way which provides a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient provision. [‘Hot Spots’](#) are identified and agreed where there is a need for more provision or where further work is required by the Early Years and Childcare Service.

Hot spot areas identified in May 2019 are:

Table 4: Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot areas

Reason for Hot Spot	Areas	Actions
Current need for more childcare places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eden Park (Barnstaple) – 2-, 3- and 4-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage to open full time – 30 hours per week
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eden Park (Barnstaple) – Under 2-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newport (Barnstaple) – 2-, 3- and 4-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage out of school provision to be funded
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East-the-Water – Under 2-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trinity / Newcourt (Exeter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copplestone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exminster – Under 2-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ilfracombe – Under 5-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stokenham – Under 2-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haytor View (Newton Abbot) – Under 5-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highweek/Bradley Barton (Newton Abbot) – Under 5-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work required to identify need.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bishopsteignton – 2-, 3- and 4-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area Continue to support the school with the transition of the early years provision.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazeldown – 2-, 3- and 4-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the school with their plans for early years provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torrington – under 5-year olds, all year round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbertonford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage school to open on Fridays and for more weeks of the year
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackpool C of E (Liverton) – under 5-year olds – 30 funded children had to travel outside the area to access provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders in the area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axminster – 5 FTEs Under 2-year-olds, 25 FTE for funded 2-, 3-, and 4-year olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provision

Need for more childcare places when new houses are built	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinhoe – Under 5-year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cranbrook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage childminders in the area Support St Martins with expansion of 3 and 4-year-old provision and taking 2-year olds. Monitor Cranbrook Education Campus all year-round provision for 3- and 4-year olds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exminster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New School with early year provision Support developments at Westbank
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage childminders in the area Continue to support the school to develop their early years provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Okehampton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage childminders in the area Continue to support the school to develop their early years provision
Need for more providers offering the extended entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Springfield to offer extended entitlement or develop new provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holsworthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Thorne Manor Day Nursery to offer the extended entitlement or develop new provision
Need for more all year-round provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whipton Barton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Whipton Barton open all year round – Capital funding monitoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ilfracombe learning community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage more childminders
Need for more funded childminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chulmleigh learning community (Chulmleigh, Witheridge, Winkleigh) Littleham and Bassetts Farm designated areas (Exmouth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new childminders and existing childminder to become funded.

PART C: SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS

CHILDREN AGED TWO, THREE AND FOUR TAKING UP EARLY YEARS FUNDING

Good news

- Although the number of funded providers has decreased, the number of funded FTE places for two-, three- and four-year-olds has increased from 16968 in March 2018 to 17184 in March 2019.

Two-year-old funding

Good news

- The take-up of the full 570-hour entitlement for two-year-olds has increased from 71.1% in March 2018 to 73.4% in 2019.
- The take-up of the two-year-old entitlement for two-year-olds in local authority care has also increased from 71.4% to 93.8% and the take-up of the full entitlement for two-year-olds in care has increased from 50.0% to 60.0% in March 2019.

Although the take-up of the Early Years Funding for eligible two-year-olds has slightly decreased this year, it remains high at 89.0%.

Table xx: Take-up of two-year-old funding

	March 2018	March 2019	
Percentage of two-year-olds accessing a funded place (as a percentage of the DfE number) ¹⁷	90.9%	89.0%	↓
Percentage of two-year-olds who are accessing a funded place who are taking up the full entitlement	71.1%	73.4%	↑
Two-year-olds in care accessing a funded place	71.4%	93.8%	↑
Two-year-olds in care who are accessing a funded place who are taking up the full entitlement	50.0%	60.0%	↑

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

¹⁷ Two-year-old take-up is based on the number of children on the last DWP list of the term and EY hours taken up; no individual children are matched.

Three- and four-year-old funding

Good news

- The take-up of the full 570-hour universal entitlement continues to increase and has risen from 84.9% in March 2018 to 85.3% in March 2019.
- The take-up of the extended entitlement by those accessing funding has increased from 41.8% in March 2018 to 44.3% in March 2019 and of those 55.9% are taking up their full extended entitlement which has increased from 50.4%. This equates to approximately 70.9% of those who are estimated to be eligible.
- The take-up of the early years funding for three- and four-year-olds in local authority care has increased from 95.0% in March 2018 to 100.0% in March 2019.
- From April 2018, the funding rate for three- and four-year-olds increased to £4.06 per hour and from September 2018 the rate increased to £4.08.

Although the take-up of the Early Years Funding for eligible two-year-olds has slightly decreased this year, it remains high at 96.0%.

Table xx: Take-up of three- and four-year-old funding

	March 2018	March 2019	
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Education Funding ¹⁸	98.5%	96.0%	↓
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing a place who are taking up the full universal entitlement	84.9%	85.3%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Entitlement who are taking up the extended entitlement	41.8%	44.3%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement who are taking up the full extended entitlement	50.4%	55.9%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement as a proportion of those estimated to be eligible (60% of population)	70.6%	70.9%	↑
Three- and four-year-olds in care accessing the Early Years Education Funding ¹⁹	95.0%	100.0%	↑
Three- and four-year-olds in care who are accessing a place who are taking up the full universal entitlement	89.5%	82.1%	↓

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2019), Early Years and Childcare Service

¹⁸ EYEF take-up is based purely on health data and EY hours taken up, no individual children are matched.

¹⁹ Children in Care information is based on the actual children and their EY hours taken up

Sufficiency of provision for children aged two, three- and four-year-olds taking up early years funding

Data suggests that overall there is sufficient provision to meet the current need for funded two-, three- and four-year-old places as the take-up remains high. However, there has been a slight decrease in the take-up for two-, three- and four-year-olds and this will be investigated further.

The Early Years and Childcare Service is expecting the take-up of the extended entitlement for eligible three- and four-year-olds will continue to increase and that there may be areas where there is a need for more provision.

Some other local authorities have reported a decrease in the number of two-year-olds accessing funded provision due to an increase in the number of three- and four-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement and filling the available places. However, Devon County Council have not identified this as an issue but will continue to monitor capacity. The decrease in the number of two-year-olds accessing a place, is likely to be due to a larger number of parents temporarily being required to use the Citizen's Portal to demonstrate eligibility. Going forward, this number will reduce, and it is expected that the number of two-year-olds accessing a place will increase.

The Early Years and Childcare Service also recognise that there will be times of the day and weeks of the year when some families may not be able to access the places they need.

Sufficiency of provision for funded places for two-, three- and four-year-olds to access the universal and extended entitlement is discussed as part of the [Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots](#). Please see the [Early Years Funding webpage](#) for more information on the entitlement.

CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF THE CHILDCARE ELEMENT OF THE WORKING TAX CREDIT AND THOSE AFFECTED BY CHANGES UNDER THE WELFARE REFORMS

At the time of writing, no updated information of families benefitting from the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit was available²⁰. The latest data showed that 14.5% of families in Devon were benefitting from the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit in 2016-17²¹.

The Universal Credit was rolled out across Devon in 2018. The impact of this roll out on parents use of childcare has yet to be determined. Families moving on to Universal Credit have found that eligibility checks for early years pupil premium or two-year-old funding have been delayed or they have been found ineligible.

The Early Years and Childcare Service work to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all families including those in receipt of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit and those affected by changes under the welfare reforms.

²⁰ An update may be available in June 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-tax-credits-statistics>

²¹ Child and Working Tax Credits statistics finalised annual awards - geographical analysis - Table 2: Average number of benefiting families and average annual entitlements in each local authority, 2016-17
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-and-working-tax-credits-statistics-finalised-annual-awards-2016-to-2017>

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are defined as children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or SEN Support (this means they are supported by Devon County Council for special needs and disabilities).

Information on education, health and social care services and support for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can be found in [Devon County Council's Local Offer](#), with more information on [what is available for 0-4 year olds in Devon](#).



Good news

- There have been no actions set by Ofsted relating to inclusion stated in inspection reports of early years providers over the last year.
- All early years and childcare providers are required, through the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#), to be inclusive.
- 94.9% of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs were accessing the Early Years Education Funding in Spring Term 2019.
- 85 children have been funded through the [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) for early years providers to support children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. The funding is intended to aid access to early years places for three- and four-year-olds by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. Providers are entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year.
- 797 children have been funded through the [SEND Individual Inclusion Fund](#)
- 387 children have been supported through the [Nursery Plus](#) service. 83.0% of children expected to reach Age Related Expectations achieved this by the time they started school. 305 children were still being supported. 38 were not likely start school at Age Related Expectations and of these 29 had more complex needs, not starting school this year or moved out of the area.
- Let's Talk More is a screening tool and support package for two-year-olds with speech and language difficulties. 851 Let's Talk More Initial Assessments have been complete in 2018/19. The outcomes were 31.3% green (no difficulty identified), 24.6% amber (mild difficulty identified, and targeted intervention support required) and 44.2% red (a moderate difficulty identified requiring specialist support). After 12 weeks of intervention children are re-screened. Of the 133 re-screens that were undertaken in 2018/19 70.7% were green.

As all early years and childcare provision is required to be inclusive and the [Disability Access Fund](#) is available to aid providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings, the Early Years and Childcare Service considers there to be sufficient choice to meet the childcare needs of parents of children with additional needs.

There is a range of specialist provisions across Devon i.e. specialist holiday play schemes and Saturday clubs. [To search for these visit Pinpoint – Community Services Directory](#).

CHILDREN REQUIRING HOLIDAY CARE

- With the seasonal nature of employment opportunities in Devon it is important that the Early Years and Childcare Service ensures there is sufficient provision for parents needing to use holiday care to enable them to work.
- The number of holiday places has decreased slightly from one full-time equivalent place (30 hours per week) for 17.4% of the population of primary-school-aged children to one full-time equivalent places for 15.4% of the population.
- 32.5% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of a holiday club, with those in more rural areas having to travel further. Childminders also offer holiday provision and 77.0% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of a childminder.
- Anecdotally, the Early Years and Childcare Service knows that a number of parents do not require childcare through the holidays as they juggle childcare and work arrangements. Some parents work term-time only and therefore do not require childcare during the holidays. Other parents use their annual leave entitlement to cover holiday periods to reduce the need for childcare, whilst others will use friends or relatives to care for their children.

As the Early Years and Childcare Service has not received enquiries from parents requiring holiday care for their children where they have been unable to find suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient provision across Devon to meet this demand.

However, with the increase in take up of the extended entitlement, the Early Years and Childcare Service recognise that there is likely to be an increased demand for places for three- and four-year-olds during the school holidays as parents will choose to 'stretch' their entitlement across the year avoiding a large bill for childcare during the summer. Therefore, areas where there is a lack of all year-round provision have been included in the [Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots](#).

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

- The number of places in before school provision has decreased slightly from one before school place available for 11.6% of primary-school-aged children to 10.7%. The number of places in after school provision has also decreased slightly from one place for 11.6% of primary-school-aged children to one place for 10.9%.
- 59.7% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of out of school provision. Childminders also offer out of school provision and 77.0% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of a childminder.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service does not always know about non-registered school run before and after school care. As a result, there may be more places available.
- Demand for out of school provision for school-aged-children will be met through the local schools that the children attend, where there is sufficient demand from parents to ensure sustainable provision.
- Parents have the right to request that schools offer childcare and providers can request to use school buildings to operate childcare. It is the responsibility of the school governors or trusts to respond to these requests. This is set out in ['Wraparound and holiday childcare: parent and childcare provider 'rights to request''](#). Devon County Council has asked schools to inform the Early Years and Childcare Service if they receive requests from childcare providers and parents through the Devon Association of Primary Headteachers (DAPH).

CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH PARENTS WHO WORK ATYPICAL AND IRREGULAR HOURS

- The Early Years and Childcare Service funds two-, three- and four-year-olds places at weekends and bank holidays enabling providers to claim funding whenever they are open between 6.00am and 8.00pm.
- Over half (55.7%) of day care providers reported they had been asked to provide childcare before 8.00am and just under a third (30.0%) had been asked to provide childcare after 6.00pm. 15.1% reported that they had been asked to provide childcare at weekends.
- 41.2% of day care providers and childminders responding to the Annual Survey of Providers 2019 reported that they had been asked to provide childcare for irregular hours, with day nurseries and childminders more likely to report this.

As the Early Years and Childcare Service has not received many enquiries from parents requiring childcare for atypical or irregular hours where they have been unable to find suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient provision across Devon to meet this need. Although the Early Years and Childcare Service suspect there will be a few families who struggle to match their working times with the availability of childcare.

Parents have the right to request schools to establish wrap around childcare if there is enough demand. This may include opening before 8.00am, after 6.00pm and at weekends.

PART D: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

NEXT STEPS: PLANNING SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION IN 2019/20

To ensure there is sufficient early years and childcare, the Early Years and Childcare Service will:

- Continue to assess sufficiency and identify Hot Spots through data analysis and discussion on the supply and demand of childcare with locality teams.
- Carry out actions to address issues in [Hot Spot Areas](#).
- Carry out actions identified from the [Annual Survey of Providers 2019](#).
- Survey parents to gain a greater insight into demand for childcare where there is insufficient provision or there are issues raised through data, by the locality teams or local families. This will be through an online survey promoted through social media.
- Promote the use of the '[unable to find childcare form](#)' to parents so that Devon County Council are informed where more places are needed.
- Carry out the Annual Survey of Providers in January 2020 using the Provider Self Update tool on the provider portal.
- Continue to promote the take up of funded two-, three- and four-year-old places to parents as well as the importance of taking up the full entitlement in line with Ofsted requirements.
- Continue to promote the take-up of the extended entitlement to 1140 hours of funded childcare for eligible three- and four-year-olds.
- Monitor the take up of funded places and hours (two-year-old funding, universal funding, extended entitlement).
- Monitor the impact of the extended entitlement on the number of places for two-year-olds.
- Promote the stretched offer to working parents to help with spreading the cost of childcare across the year.
- Promote the take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium to parents and providers.
- Capture information on school run childcare that is not registered.
- Raise the awareness of providers right to request the use of school sites for early years and childcare provision.
- Raise awareness of parents right to request that a school provides childcare.
- Monitor openings, closures and expansions.
- Finalise the Early Years Infrastructure Plan.

The challenges in ensuring sufficient early years and childcare provision in Devon in 2019/20 are:

- Recruitment and retention of staff by early years providers, especially during school holidays, before and after school.
- Complexity of monitoring capacity and parental demand.
- Gathering accurate data from providers to determine what provision is available.
- Rurality and sparsity make it difficult to sustain childcare businesses.
- Lack of suitable buildings.

Known changes to early years and childcare provision in Devon in 2019/20:

- Annual Survey information will be collected from all providers through the Provider Portal. Providers will be required to update this at least annually, in the Spring term.

2018/19



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