

Milestone 4: All children will have access to quality care and early learning before entering school

This milestone relates to the key commitment to provide part-time pre-school education to all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents or guardians request it. Information is provided through the pre-school education grant scheme and through a census of pre-school education centres.

Participation Rates of 3 and 4 year olds

The information from local authorities shows increases in the percentage of all 3 and 4 year olds receiving pre-school education. The percentage of 4 year olds receiving a place has increased from 97 per cent to 100 per cent between summer 1999/00 and 2003/04 and the percentage of 3 year olds receiving a place increased from 68 per cent to 85 per cent over the same period.

Table 4a: Participation rates of 3 and 4 year olds, summer terms 1999/00 - 2002/03

	3 year old	4 year old	3 and 4 year old
1999/00	68	97	83
2000/01	80	97	88
2001/02	85	96	90
2002/03	88	99	94
2003/04	85	100	93

Source: Scottish Executive - Pre-school Education Grant Scheme and Local Authority Key Statistics

Background data

The following background data corresponds to the charts and commentary included in this milestone.

Table 4b: Number of 3 and 4 year olds in Nursery / Pre – school, 1994/95 – 2003/04

Year	Local Authority Provision	All Provision
1994/95 (September)	48,954	-
1995/96 (September)	49,020	-
1996/97 (September)	50,117	-
1997/98 (September)	53,260	-
1998/99 (February)	63,072	77,695
1999/00 (September)	66,719	88,799
2000/01 (January)	72,797	98,837
2001/02 (January)	72,566	98,769
2002/03 (January)	75,234	105,078
2003/04 (January)	72,725	103,137

Source: Scottish Executive - Pre-school and daycare census

Note: The data collections were taken at different point in the year

Available data and references

The statistics from pre-school education grant scheme provide information at local authority and national level. The information collected through the census of pre-school education centres can provide data split by age.

Pre-School Education Participation Rate 2002-03

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/about/ED/EEC/00015135/page1105282989.aspx>

Summary results of the 2004 Pre-school and Daycare Census

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00346-00.asp>