

## Pre-School, Sure Start and Nursery Provision

These statistics provide some indication of the numbers of children benefiting from free early education.

### Funded Places – Part Time Equivalent

The table below shows the total number of funded 'part-time equivalent' places filled by three and four year olds over a six-year period. Note that a 'part time equivalent' is equal to 12.5 hours education and an individual place may be the sum of several children participating in shorter sessions. Consequently, the number of actual students benefiting will exceed the part-time equivalents.

It can be seen that numbers in Blackpool increased by a larger percentage (19.3%) than the percentage increase in the Northwest (5.9%) and in England (9.3%) during the period between 2004 and 2008.

**Table 1: Part time Equivalent Number of Free Early Education places filled by 3 and 4 year olds 2004-2009**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change 2004-2009</u>
Blackpool	2,825	2,820	2,695	2,735	3,230	3,370	+19.3%
Northwest	144,335	142,560	141,670	143,885	149,070	152,800	+5.9%
England	1,032,725	1,027,970	1,029,705	1,054,800	1,098,090	1,128,790	+9.3%

Source: [DCSE](#), June 2009  
Next Update (provisional) June 2010

### Funded Provision – Private, voluntary and independent providers

The total number of three and four year olds taking up early education sessions in private, voluntary and independent providers only was 1,510 in 2008, compared to 1,315 in the previous year. (Source: DCFS, June 2009)

There are 10 children's centres operating within Blackpool, seven are based in schools and the other three were originally SureStart schemes.