



Childcare Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 21

PART 1

GENERAL FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY: ENGLAND

Provision of childcare

[^{F1} 7 **Duty to secure early years provision free of charge in accordance with regulations**

- (1) An English local authority must secure that early years provision of such description as may be prescribed is available free of charge, in accordance with any regulations under this subsection, for each young child in their area who—
 - (a) is under compulsory school age, and
 - (b) is of such description as may be prescribed.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular include provision about—
 - (a) how much early years provision is to be made available in pursuance of the duty imposed by subsection (1);
 - (b) the times at which, and periods over which, early years provision is to be made available in pursuance of that duty.
- (3) In discharging the duty under subsection (1) a local authority must have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 7 substituted (1.9.2012 for specified purposes, 1.9.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Education Act 2011 \(c. 21\)](#), **ss. 1(2)**, 82(3); [S.I. 2012/1087](#), art. 3; [S.I. 2012/2213](#), art. 5

Status: Point in time view as at 25/03/2020. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Childcare Act 2006, Section 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 7: power to modify conferred (temp.) (25.3.2020) by [Coronavirus Act 2020 \(c. 7\)](#), s. 87(1), [Sch. 17 para. 5](#) (with [ss. 88-90](#)) (which affecting provision expires (9.12.2021) by [The Coronavirus Act 2020 \(Early Expiry\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1399\)](#), regs. 1(2), [5](#))
- C2** S. 7 restricted (temp.) (25.3.2020) by [Coronavirus Act 2020 \(c. 7\)](#), s. 87(1), [Sch. 16 para. 3\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with [ss. 88-90](#)) (which affecting provision expires (9.12.2021) by [The Coronavirus Act 2020 \(Early Expiry\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1399\)](#), regs. 1(2), [5](#))

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 7 in force at 1.4.2008 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2008/785](#) , [art. 2\(a\)](#)
- I2** S. 7 in force at 1.9.2008 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2008/2261](#) , [art. 2](#) (with [Sch. 1](#))

Status:

Point in time view as at 25/03/2020. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

Childcare Act 2006, Section 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.