



## ECE Funding Key Dates 2026

This document provides key funding dates for early learning services for 2026.

Please note, there are now two submission due dates for each of the bulk subsidy payments. One for the paper based RS7 Return and one for the electronic RS7 Return.

Day and Date	ID	Description
Thursday, 1 January	SH	New Year's Day
Friday, 2 January	SH	Day after New Year's Day
Monday, 5 January	-	Ministry of Education National Office reopens
Sunday, 1 February	RS7	March 2026 electronic RS7 submission period opens
Friday, 6 February	SH	Waitangi Day Holiday
Tuesday 10 February	RS7	Paper-based RS7 due date for 1 March payment
Friday, 13 February	RS7	Last submission day of March 2026 electronic RS7s for 1 March payment
Mid-February	EQI	New services to be advised of Equity Index assessment results and services that requested reviews
Monday, 2 March	PMT	<b>01 March 2026 ECE operational funding payment</b>
Friday, 6 March	RS7	Last submission day of March 2026 RS7s for 20 March payment
Friday, 20 March	PMT	<b>20 March 2026 ECE operational funding payment</b>
Friday, 3 April	SH	Good Friday
Monday, 6 April	SH	Easter Monday
Monday, 27 April	SH	ANZAC Day Holiday Observed
Monday, 1 June	RS7	July 2026 electronic RS7 submission period opens
Monday, 1 June	SH	King's Birthday
Thursday 11 June	RS7	Paper-based RS7 due date for 1 July payment
Tuesday, 16 June	RS7	Last submission day of July 2026 electronic RS7s for 1 July payment
Mid-June	EQI	New services to be advised of Equity Index assessments
Monday 22 – Sunday 28 June	-	Annual ECE Return dates
Tuesday, 30 June	FD	Financial declarations due for 2025 financial year
Wednesday, 1 July	PMT	<b>01 July 2026 ECE operational funding payment</b>
Friday, 10 July	SH	Matariki
Thursday, 1 October	RS7	November 2026 electronic RS7 submission period opens
Monday 12 October	RS7	Paper-based RS7 due date for 1 November payment
Thursday, 15 October	RS7	Last submission day of November 2026 electronic RS7s for 1 November payment
Monday, 26 October	SH	Labour Day
Monday, 2 November	PMT	<b>01 November 2026 ECE operational funding payment</b>
Friday, 25 December	SH	Christmas Day
Saturday, 26 December	SH	Boxing Day

Indicator	Description
RS7	RS7 Return funding
SH	Statutory Holiday – <b>NB:</b> services cannot claim SH in advance
EQI	<a href="#">Equity Index for funding</a>
PMT	Early Childhood operational funding payment
FD	<a href="#">Financial Declaration Collection</a>

Further reminders on dates and important information will be advertised on the Ministry website: **Education.govt.nz** and in [He Pānui Kōhungahunga – the Early Learning Bulletin](#)