



GOVERNMENT FUNDING INFORMATION FOR 2, 3, AND 4 YEAR OLDS

15 Hours Funding for 2, 3, and 4 year olds:

All children are automatically entitled to a free place in an Early Years educational setting to access 15 hours (570 hours per year) of funded Nursery Education per week, over 38 weeks of the year, from the beginning of the term after their 3rd birthday. You do not need to apply for this funding.

Working Families Funding: **From September 2024**

15 hours childcare support has been extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds.

This funding needs to be applied for by the parent/carer, the criteria is the same as for the extended funding for 3 year olds, as detailed below. Parents will be given an eligibility code which must be passed onto the nursery administrator for verification. As with the Early Years funding it is the parents/carers responsibility to renew their code. Parents can apply for the funding at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

30 Hours Extended Childcare Funding :

From September 2017, the government extended the free childcare offer for eligible three and four year olds to 30 hours per week (1140 hours per year) for 38 weeks of the year. To qualify for the additional hours of free childcare, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) needs to earn, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours per week at national minimum wage, and less than £100,000 per year. This extended childcare offer is flexible and families can use it to suit their needs. Self-employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings threshold

Parents can check if they qualify and apply for the extended entitlement at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Parents will be given an eligibility code which must be submitted to the nursery for verification by the end of term before the child wishes to access their extended entitlement.

Parents are responsible for renewing their code before it expires. Children who cease to qualify for the extended entitlement will be able to continue to access it until the end of a specific grace period. Following the end of their grace period the child will revert to the universal offer (15 hours, term time only) the following term, unless the parent chooses to pay for the additional hours.

If a parent does not renew their code within four weeks of expiring, or two weeks before the published end of the 'grace period' term (whichever is the sooner), the school will assume that the child will be stopping their extended entitlement place at the end of the grace period. The child may lose their extended place if the school has children on the waiting list for extended entitlement places.

For families in England, receiving some additional forms of government support:

If you are unable to apply for Working Families Funding, you may be able to receive funding for your 2 year old if you meet any of the criteria below:

A maximum of 15 hours per week is available. Children become eligible in the funding period after their second birthday. The funding periods are:

- **Spring** 1 January to 31 March
- **Summer** 1 April to 31 August
- **Autumn** 1 September to 31 December

Entitlement:

Parents or carers who receive any of the following are entitled to funding for 2-year-olds:

- Universal Credit – if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax
- Income Support (IS)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) – not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) – not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on – the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
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Children are entitled if any of the following applies to them:

- Children who are 2 and receive Disability Living Allowance
- Children who are 2 and have been adopted, or who have left care through special guardianship or child arrangement orders
- Children who are 2 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Children who are 2 and are looked after by the local authority

How to Apply – go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Evidence will only need to be sent without prior request if an application is made and the child qualifies by receiving Disability Living Allowance. In this case, a copy of the latest award letter from the Department for Work and Pensions will need to be submitted before the application can be processed. We recommend attaching the evidence to the form at the time of application.