



CHILDCARE SUPPORT IS EXPANDING

A GUIDE TO THE NEW EARLY YEARS FUNDING ENTITLEMENT

The Government has announced new working parent entitlements for children aged 9 months up to and including 2 years old to expand on the existing childcare support for 3 & 4 year olds. Let's break this down further!

THE CURRENT OFFER

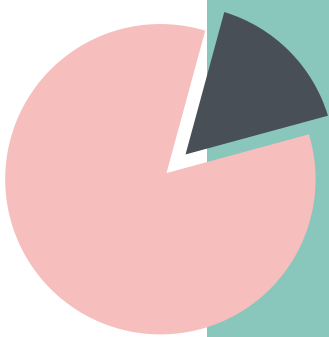
- All parents/carers of 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours a week childcare support with registered providers.
- Eligible working parents are carers of children aged 3-4 can also get an additional 15 hours childcare support, bringing their total up to 30 hours a week.
- Eligible parents of 2 year old children may also be entitled to 15 hours childcare support if they receive some additional forms of government support.



THE EXPANSION

In ADDITION to the current offer

- From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of childcare support.
- From September 2024, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3 years old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.



As you can see above, the expansion of funding entitlement will be introduced in phases; by September 2025! Most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support.



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IS IT REALLY FREE?

The Government are investing over £400 million in 2024-2025 towards the Childcare Acts of 2006 & 2016 - which provide free childcare for eligible working parents. However, as the funding rates sometimes do not fully meet the actual cost of providing childcare we often refer to this as funded hours or subsidised hours.



WHEN WILL BE FUNDED PLACE START?

Funding usually starts the term after your child's eligible birthday. For example;

- Children born between 1 Jan - 31 March: The start of term beginning on OR following the 1st of April.
- Children born between 1 April - 31 August: The start of term beginning on OR following the 1st of September.
- Children born between 1 September - 21st December: The start of the term beginning on OR following the 1st of January.



FLEXIBILITY

The 15 and 30 hour funding is calculated over 38 weeks a year (term time only).

The free entitlement hours cannot be compressed (so you CANNOT take more than 15 or 30 hours per week over fewer than 38 weeks of the year).





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WHEN TO APPLY

currently you can apply online from when your child is:

- 1 year and 36 weeks - for 15 hours funded childcare
- 2 years and 26 weeks - for 30 hours funded childcare

It can take 20 minutes to apply, and it can take 7 days to get your results.



<u>Your child's birthday</u>	<u>When they can get their hours from</u>	<u>Recommended time to apply</u>
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	15 October to 30 November
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	15 January to 28 February
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	15 June to 31 July

WHAT DO I DO NOW I'VE RECEIVED MY FUNDING CODE?



Once your application has been approved, you'll get a code for free childcare to give to your childcare provider.

You have to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months. If you apply more than 3 months before the term starts, you'll have to reconfirm your eligibility in your account to keep your code valid.

We do our best to keep this information as up to date as possible, however please check for updates via the Government website. You can also use Family Information Service, children centres, family hubs, and other agencies for more information.