

2 Year Old Funding

Parents or carers of two year olds who meet the [criteria](#) can apply for a free early learning place to fund childcare sessions for 15 hours per week flexibly, 38 weeks of the year from the term after their 2nd birthday.

3 & 4 Year old Universal Funding

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to a 15 hour early education place, the term after their 3rd birthday this entitlement consists of 570 hours per year which can be used in a variety of ways, the childcare provider of your choice will inform you of their offer.

3 & 4 Year Old Extended Funding

Working parents/carers will be entitled to a further 15 hours of childcare in addition to their universal offer if they meet the criteria, this entitlement consists of a further 570 hours per years increasing the offer to 1140 hours which can also be used in a variety of ways where childcare providers have space to do so.

Eligibility:

- Both parent/carers are working (or sole parent in a lone parent family) and each parent earns on average: a weekly minimum wage the equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW) and less than £100,00 per year each.
- Both parents are employed but one or both is temporarily away from the workplaces on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption leave or statutory sick pay
- One parent is employed and the other parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled/incapacitated based on specific benefits
- Foster parents who are in paid work outside their role as a foster parent

You do not need to actually work 16 hours per week but your earnings must meeting the minimum equivalent of national minimum or living wage.

Tax Free Childcare

Tax free childcare is a new government scheme to help working parents with the cost of childcare.

Parents will be able to open an online account, which they can use to pay for childcare from a registered provider.

For every £8 a parent pays in, the government will pay in an extra £2. Parents can receive up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs, or £4,000 for disabled children.

The scheme will be available for children up to the age of 11, or under 17 for children with disabilities.

To qualify, parents will have to be in work, and each expecting to earn at least £120 a week. Each parent must not have income over £100,000 per year