

Funding Options Explained

TWO YEAR FUNDING

From April 2024, eligible 2-year-olds of working families will be entitled to up to 15 hours funded Childcare. This will increase to 30 hours from September 2025.

For more information and to apply visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

TWO YEAR FUNDING (PLAY 2 LEARN OR FREE FOR 2)

Your 2-year-old may be eligible for two year funding if you have a household income of under £15,400, or are in receipt of any of the following benefits: income support, job seekers allowance, working tax or child tax credits. You can also be eligible if your child: has an EHCP, is a looked after child, is claiming Disability Living Allowance.

To check eligibility please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

15 HOURS GOVERNMENT FUNDING

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England can get 570 hours of free early education or childcare per year, usually taken as 15 hours a week for up to 38 weeks of the year.

30 HOURS GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Some 3 and 4-year-olds will be able to get 30 hours funded childcare or education. The additional 15 hours of funded childcare is available for families where: both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone-parent family), each parent earns at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage and less than £100,000 a year.

To check eligibility please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

[This must be renewed every three months.](#)

Whether your child is 2 or 3 their funding will start at the beginning of the term following their birthday. Your 2-year-old can only access funding if they meet the set criteria.