

# Help with Childcare Costs

What are you entitled to?

There are three main elements to help with childcare costs:

- 15 hours of childcare for SOME two-year-olds.
- 15 hours of childcare for ALL three- and four-year-olds.
- An additional 15 hours of childcare (making 30 hours altogether) for SOME three- and four-year-olds.

# Am I entitled to help with childcare costs for my two-year-old?

To receive 15 hours of funded childcare for your two-year-old, you must be receiving:

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit (if you and your partner earn £15,400 a year in total after tax)
- Tax credits and you earn £16,190 or less a year, after tax.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act.
- The Working Tax Credit 4 week run-on (the payment you get when you stop receiving Working Tax Credit).

Your child also qualifies if they have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHCP, get Disability Living Allowance, are looked after by the council or are adopted or have a special guardianship.

Am I entitled to help with childcare costs for my three or four-year-old?

ALL three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare.

It MUST be with an approved childcare provider. That may be a day nursery, nursery school, nursery class in a school, nanny or childminder, but they MUST be registered with Ofsted.

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/find-free-early-education> to find a registered provider.

Am I entitled to help with childcare costs for my three or four-year-old?

SOME three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare.

It **MUST** be with an approved childcare provider.

You must be working (and if you have a partner, they must be working too). You must both earn at least £125.28 a week.

Do I really get  
15 or 30 hours  
every week for  
free?

In a word, no!

The 15 or 30 hours is term time only, so that's only 38 weeks of a year. Some nurseries will offer around 11 hours a week for 50 weeks of the year.

Some nurseries may charge for meals and 'consumables'. This is because the government are not paying nurseries enough to run this scheme.

My child is going into Reception soon. Is it too late for me to get extra help?

No.

If you think you are entitled to 30 hours, apply **before 31<sup>st</sup> March** to receive the 30 hours after Easter.

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare>

My child is going into Reception soon. Is it too late for me to get extra help?

No. Even once your child is in Reception, you can get help with the cost of after-school clubs or childminders, as long as they are registered with Ofsted.

You can open a tax-free childcare account if you (and your partner if you have one) earn at least £125.28 each week. For every £8 you pay in, the government pay in £2. So if the cost of a childminder to take your child to school was £30 a week, you would pay £24 and the government would pay £6. Tax-free childcare can be used until your child is 11.

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> for more details.

For more  
information:

Go to

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Thank you!