



15 and 30 Hours of Free Childcare



What Is the Free Childcare Scheme?

While all families with three and four-year-olds are entitled to receive 15 hours of free childcare, some may receive more. Some families with two-year-olds can also be in receipt of this free childcare. This funding will begin the term after the child's eligible birthday. Families will need to ensure that their details are updated with the government every three months to continue receiving this funding. This can be used with approved and participating schools, day nurseries, childminders, seasonal providers and out-of-school care. This government [childcare calculator](#) can help parents find out how much they may receive for their approved childcare.

Disclaimer: This resource is provided for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute financial advice. If you require financial or tax advice, you should contact a suitably qualified professional. You should not rely on the material included within this resource and Twinkl does not accept any responsibility if you do.

What Is Included?

The government funding is intended to cover the delivery of early education and care only. Settings may ask for further payment directly from families towards the cost of consumables (such as nappies or wipes), additional activities (such as trips) or meals, but these costs must be voluntary as families may wish to supply these themselves. However, families cannot be required to pay a registration fee or deposit when joining the setting. Early years providers do not need to offer this scheme - it is optional. They can also limit the number of places they offer.

15 Hours of Funding (Two, Three and Four-Year-Olds)

Some families with two-year-old children who receive certain support may be entitled to 15 hours of free childcare or early education. All families with three and four-year-olds are entitled. They will receive funding for 38 weeks of free childcare, equating to 570 hours per year. Some providers allow families to 'stretch' this funding over 52 weeks, which means the weekly entitlement is reduced but the annual allowance remains the same. This can be used for multiple providers. Visit gov.uk for further information and for the eligibility criteria for two-year-olds.

30 Hours of Funding (Three and Four-Year-Olds)

Families where the parents are working at least 16 hours a week are entitled to 30 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks, equating to 1140 hours per year. Some providers allow families to 'stretch' this funding over 52 weeks which means the weekly entitlement is reduced but the annual allowance remains the same. This can be used for multiple providers. Visit gov.uk for further information and for the eligibility criteria.

Splitting Funding between Multiple Providers

Families can split the offer between multiple childcare providers, although this is limited to a maximum of two per day. If families choose to do this, they will need to provide each setting with their eligibility code and information.