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## 2 Year Old Funding & Free Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year Olds Overview

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# 2 Year Old Funding

## What is 2 year old funding?

2 year old funding refers to free childcare for eligible 2 year olds. The free provision can provide up to 15 hours per week during term time or as a stretched offer for 12 hours per week over 48 weeks per year with a provider that offers this model.

## Who is eligible for 2 year old funding?

2 year olds can get free early education and childcare if they live in England and the family receives one of the following benefits. An application would be required for the following: -

- Income support.
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance.
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Universal Credit.
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax (this amount could change in the future).
- 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 (payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply. **Proof would be required for any of the following:-**

- They have a current statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHCP).
- They get Disability Living Allowance.
- They left care under one of the following:-
  - Adoption order.
  - A special guardianship order.
  - Child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).

A child would become eligible from the term after their second birthday and the eligibility would continue until the child turns 3 years old.

Child born between	Eligible from the start of the term beginning on or following
1 Sept – 31 Dec	1 Jan after the child's second birthday.
1 Jan – 31 March	1 April after the child's second birthday
1 April – 31 Aug	1 Sept after the child's second birthday

Please note that the basis for eligibility would be required in your January school census return. EG economic, SEN or disability or looked after or adopted from care.

## Applying for 2 year old funding

Most local authorities have an online application facility. We recommend you contact your local authority Early Years Team for further information.

## What is the stretched offer?

Parents may be able to use their free entitlement across the entire year instead of term time, this is called the 'Stretched Offer'.

Not all early year's providers provide the stretched offer, however if they do they should ensure all parents are made aware of this and whether there would be any implications of taking up this offer.

# Free Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year Olds

## What is Free Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year Olds?

All 3 to 4 year olds in England can get free early education or childcare. This must be with an approved childcare provider and stops when the child starts reception class or reaches compulsory school age if this is later.

## How many hours of provision are available?

All children in England can get 570 free hours per year this is usually taken as 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year. This could be taken at one or two providers. Where the parent has opted to take the entitlement over two providers we recommend the providers communicate with each other to ensure they are both aware of their individual funding entitlement.



15 hours of provision are available per week.  
This can also be referred to as the Universal offer.

The hours could be offered flexibly within the following limits but not necessarily all the following:

- Maximum of 15 hours in a week
- Minimum of 38 weeks per year.
- No session to be longer than 10 hours.
- Not before 6am or after 8pm.
- Maximum of 52 weeks per year – this would result in a reduction of the number of free hours available per week, eg 45 weeks would result in 12 hours 40 minutes per week maximum.
- During school holidays.
- On weekends.

Not all providers will provide this type of flexible offer.

If you are a provider that allows parents to take the funding over more than the 38 weeks per year this will affect the funded hour entitlement per week and what you need to record in your January school census return. If you are unsure about this you should check with us before submitting your return.

## 30 hours – this can also be referred to as the Extended Entitlement

Some children may be entitled to 1140 hours per year this is usually taken as 30 hours per week for 38 weeks per year.

Eligibility for 30 hours free childcare if the family are: -

- In work or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave.
- Each person in the family is earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week.

If a family is entitled to the 30 hours funding they will have signed up online and get a code that they must give to the childcare provider. This code will need to be submitted in your January school census return.

Not all providers will offer the 30 hours option.

Providers that offer the 30 hour option may allow parents to split the hours over more than the term time 38 weeks per year. If you are a provider that allows this type of split there will be implications for the number of funded hours and extended funded hours you must enter in your January school census return. If you are unsure about this you should check with us before submitting your return.



You can apply for 30 hours free childcare here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

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## Other useful sites

Childcare costs calculator:

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Information about childcare help:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>

## The Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The disability access fund has been implemented to aid access to early years places. It should help towards making reasonable adjustments and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of all children attending the setting).

### Eligibility

3 and 4 year olds will be eligible for the DAF if they are in receipt of child disability living allowance and receive free early education.

### Entitlement

- The settings of three- and four-year-olds eligible for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year. The DAF is not based on an hourly rate and is an additional entitlement.
- The lump sum payment can only be paid to one setting. The parents of children who are splitting their EEF across two or more providers, are responsible for nominating the provider who should receive the DAF payment.
- Children who are in receipt of DAF will be eligible in the setting they have chosen to take up their Early Education Funding or in the case of split setting, the setting nominated by the parent.
- Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to receive the DAF.
- If a child receiving DAF moves from one setting to another within a financial year the money will remain with the original setting. The new setting is not eligible to receive DAF funding for this child within the same financial year.

### Identifying eligible children

- Early years providers are ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children. Providers should speak to parents to find out if their child is eligible for the DAF.
- A new parent declaration form template is due to be published which will include a box for parents to tick if their child is in receipt of disability living allowance.

If a child is eligible for the funding the relevant establishment will be responsible for reporting this in the school census return.

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