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# Funded childcare for 2 year olds

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## 2 year olds from working families

### Who can apply?

You could get up to 15 hours funded childcare if you and your partner (if you have one) work full or part time hours.

You could still be eligible, even if you're on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or if you're unable to work.

[Check the full eligibility criteria](#) to find out if you can claim.

### When to apply

You can apply for funded childcare funding for 2 year olds - 16 weeks before your child's second birthday. We recommend you apply no more than 3 months before you're eligible to claim.

You must apply in good time to take your eligibility code to your childcare provider before the deadline. Many parents applying for this funding will get a reply straightaway to say if they are eligible. Some parents will need to provide more information for their application.

Must be 2 years old by	Date child is eligible for funding from	Recommended time to apply
31 December	1 January (Spring term)	15 October to 30 November
31 March	1 April (Summer term)	15 January to 28 February
31 August	1 September (Autumn term)	15 June to 31 July

You must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts

[Apply if you are a working parent](#)

### Reconfirm your eligibility

You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months even if you haven't started claiming.

### Can you claim other funding at the same time?

If you're eligible, you can claim through other funding schemes at the same time, including:

- [Tax-Free childcare](#)
- [Universal Credit](#)
- [Tax credits](#)

Find out which funding schemes work best for your family with the [online childcare calculator](#).

## Issues applying for funding

Contact the HMRC helpline - Telephone: [0300 123 4097](tel:03001234097)

## 2 year olds from families receiving government benefits

Your child might be eligible if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 or less a year after tax, not including benefits
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The Working Tax Credit 4 week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

You might also be eligible if you cannot claim benefits because of your immigration status, or lack of immigration status. Find more information on [2 year funding eligibility on GOV.UK](#).

### Apply if you receive qualifying benefits

[Confirm your eligibility and apply](#) if you receive one of the qualifying benefits.

## 2 year olds from families with no recourse to public funding maybe eligible for funding

To be eligible, you must have a:

- UK ancestry visa
- Temporary protection status under Section 12 of the Nationality and Borders Act; and
- Pre-settled status with no qualifying right to reside

Subject to the maximum income thresholds as follows:

- £26,500 for families outside of London with one child
- £30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children
- A maximum capital threshold of £16,000 in all areas

[Contact Early Years Funding](#) to apply.

## Other eligible 2 year olds

Your child might be eligible if they:

- Are looked after by the local council
- Have left care through a special guardianship order (SGO), adoption or residency order
- Receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Have an education, health, and care plan (EHCP)

[Contact early years funding](#) to apply.

## Find a childcare provider

# Find a childcare provider

[Search our FYI Directory](#) for a registered or approved childcare provider. You can filter your search by those offering funded early education.

If you have obtained confirmation of funding but have difficulty finding a suitable setting we may be able to help. You can [complete a request for help](#).

# Using your funded childcare

## Using your funded childcare

Your child can get up to 15 hours funded childcare for 38 weeks of the year.

Some childcare providers may allow you to use your funded hours over more weeks by using fewer hours each week. Speak to your childcare provider to find out if you can spread the funding over more weeks.

Some providers may not offer 15 hours funded childcare, or they may only be able to offer limited hours. This could be due to available places or their opening times.

You can use the 15 hours at more than one childcare provider.

The funding does not cover the cost of additional services or items and your childcare provider may charge extra for these. These could be:

- Lunch
- Nappies
- Trips
- Music classes

Even so, you must not be asked to pay a fee as a condition of taking up a 15 hours place, and must be offered alternative options such as choosing to provide your own child's lunch, for example.

# Claiming other childcare funding at the same time

If you're eligible, you can claim other funding schemes at the same time, including:

- [Universal Credit](#)
- [Tax credits](#)
- [Tax-free childcare](#)

Find out which funding schemes work best for your family with the [online childcare calculator](#).

# Issues for working parents applying for funding

Contact the [HMRC childcare funding helpline](#) if you're having difficulties with:

- Applying for 15 hours funded childcare for working families of 2 year olds
- Applying for 30 hours funded childcare and/or Tax-Free Childcare
- Reconfirming your eligibility for 30 hours funded childcare and/or Tax-Free Childcare

## Dates your child is eligible for funding

You may get funded childcare the term after your child's second birthday. This means it would start either in January, April or September.

Must be 2 years old by:	Date child is eligible for funding from:
31 December	1 January (spring term)
31 March	1 April (summer term)
31 August	1 September (autumn term)

Your child will continue to be eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

If you work, you could be eligible for up to 30 hours of funded childcare the term after they turn 3.

Your chosen funded childcare must:

- Be with a registered or approved childcare provider who is rated good or outstanding by Ofsted
- Start from the term after your child's second birthday

Childcare providers include childminders, pre-schools, playgroups and nurseries. Speak to your chosen childcare provider to book your child's place. We advise you to contact them the term before you want to use the funding to book your child's place in good time.

## Further information

### Early Years funding team

PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA

**Telephone** 01253 477854

**Email** [freeentitlement@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:freeentitlement@blackpool.gov.uk)

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