



Funded Childcare: Everything you need to know about funding



www.theoldstationnursery.co.uk

What is 15 hours funded childcare for 2-year-olds?

To learn more about 15 hours funded childcare for 2-year-olds, feel free to watch our video using the button on the right, or read the information below.

WATCH VIDEO



The government provides a funded childcare scheme which offers funded childcare for eligible 2-year-olds. The scheme includes a total of 15 hours of funded childcare for 38 weeks, totalling 570 hours per year. In our nurseries where children attend all year round (51 weeks of the year), The Old Station Nursery Group will stretch this funding, totalling up to 11.18 hours per week.

To be eligible of receiving 15 hours funded childcare for your 2-year-old, you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- The guaranteed element of 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 may also be eligible for 15 hours funded childcare if children:

- Are looked after by a local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Get Disability Living Allowance
- Have left care under adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

To check full eligibility criteria please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

All our nurseries offer different sessions which can vary, so please speak to the Nursery Manager at your chosen nursery, who will be able to confirm availability and provide more information about how the funded sessions are offered. To find and contact your nearest nursery visit <https://www.theoldstationnursery.co.uk/nurseries/>

How do I apply for it?

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You can apply for funding through a local authority website, where you will be asked to see if your child is eligible for a funded place once they turn 20 months old. You will usually be asked to login or sign up with a 'parent portal' or similar. Find your local authority website by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

If your child is eligible, your child will receive their ticket or code which can be used at all our nurseries. It does usually take a few weeks for applications to be processed. It's worth noting that the eligibility criteria and application process can change over time, so it's a good idea to check the relevant government websites for the most up-to-date information.

When can I apply for it?

[To learn more about when to apply for 15 hours funded childcare for 2-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.](#)

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You can apply for 15 hours funding when your child is 20 months old, with access to funding the term after your child turns 2 (see table below):

Birthday falls between	Term funding starts
1st September to 31st December	1st January
1st January to 31st March	1st April
1st April to 31st August	1st September

What is 15 hours funded childcare for 3 & 4-year-olds?

To learn more about 15 hours funded childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

WATCH VIDEO



All children aged 3 to 4 in England are eligible to claim 15 hours funded childcare sessions per week, totalling 570 hours per year. The scheme includes a total of 15 hours of funded childcare for 38 weeks, totalling 570 hours per year. In our nurseries where children attend all year round (51 weeks of the year), The Old Station Nursery Group will stretch this funding, totalling up to 11.18 hours per week.

How do I apply for it?

To learn more about to apply for 15 hours funded childcare for 3 & 4-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

WATCH VIDEO



All children aged 3 to 4 in England are automatically entitled to claim 15 hours funded childcare sessions per week. All of our Nursery Managers at The Old Station Nursery Group will be happy to help you with this when you register your child at nursery. To find your nearest nursery, please visit <https://www.theoldstationnursery.co.uk/nurseries/>

All our nurseries offer different sessions which can vary, so please speak to the Nursery Manager at your chosen nursery, who will be able to confirm availability and provide more information about how the funded sessions are offered.

When can I apply for it?

To learn more about to apply for 15 hours funded childcare for 3 & 4-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

WATCH VIDEO



You can apply for 15 hours funding when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old, with access to funding the term after your child turns 3 (see table below).

Birthday falls between	Term funding starts
1st September to 31st December	1st January
1st January to 31st March	1st April
1st April to 31st August	1st September

What is 30 hours funded childcare for 3 & 4-year-olds?

To learn more about 30 hours funded childcare for 3 & 4-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

WATCH VIDEO



30 hours funded childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds is a scheme in the UK that provides eligible families with up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week for their children.

Your eligibility of receiving 30 hours funded childcare for your 3- or 4-year-old, depends on:

- If you are working
- Your income (and your partner's income if applicable)
- Your child's age and circumstances
- Your immigration status

If you are working:

You can get 30 hours funded childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, Tax Credits, Childcare Vouchers, or Tax-Free Childcare if you are:

- In work
- On sick leave or annual leave
- On shared parental, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave

If you're on adoption leave for a child aged 3 or 4-years-old, you must return to work within 31 days of the date you first apply for 30 hours funded childcare for that child.

If you are not currently working:

- You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Limited Capability for Work Benefit or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.
- You can apply if you are starting or re-starting work within the next 31 days.

Your income:

Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if applicable) must each expect to earn at least:

- £2,167 if you're aged 23 or over
- £2,117 if you're aged 21 or 22
- £1,557 if you're aged 18 to 20
- £1,098 if you're under 18 or an apprentice

This is at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week on average.

You can use an average of how much you expect to earn over the current tax year if:

- You work throughout the year but do not get paid regularly
- You're self-employed and do not expect to earn enough in the next 3 months

If you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago, you can earn less and still be eligible for 30 hours funded childcare.

To check full eligibility criteria please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

How do I apply for it?

To learn more about to apply for 30 hours funded childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



If you are eligible for 30 hours funded childcare, the next step is to create a childcare service account on the government's website.

This is where you will apply for the 30 hours of funded childcare and manage your account. Once you have created your account, you can apply for the funding. You will need to provide information about your child, your eligibility, and your chosen childcare provider. You may also need to provide additional documentation, such as proof of income.

After you have applied, you will receive an eligibility code that you need to give to your chosen nursery. The code will then be checked by our teams, to confirm your eligibility. Once your eligibility has been confirmed, you need to confirm your place with the nursery. You may need to sign a contract or provide other documentation, such as your child's birth certificate and immunisation records.

It's important to apply as early as possible, as it can take up to seven days to process your application and confirm your eligibility. **You also need to reconfirm your eligibility every three months.**

When can I apply for it?

[To learn more about when to apply for 30 hours funded childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



You can apply for 30 hours funding when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old, with access to funding the term after your child turns 3 (see table below):

Birthday falls between	Term funding starts
1st September to 31st December	1st January
1st January to 31st March	1st April
1st April to 31st August	1st September

What is Tax-Free childcare?

To learn more about Tax-Free Childcare, watch our video by clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Tax-Free Childcare is a government initiative designed to help working families with the cost of childcare. It is affordable and accessible to those who need it most.

It's designed to be a simple and convenient way to save on costs when registering your child at nursery and is accepted across all our settings at The Old Station Nursery Group. It helps families save money on childcare costs, by adding government funds to the amount they pay in.

For every 80p you pay into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the government will add an extra 20p, up to a maximum of £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for children with additional needs. This means that for every £8 you pay in, you'll get £2 back from the government.

Your eligibility depends on:

- if you are working
- your income (and your partner's income if you have one)
- your child's age and circumstances
- your immigration status

If you are working:

You can usually get Tax-Free Childcare if you (and your partner, if applicable) are:

- in work
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave

If you're on adoption leave, you cannot apply for the child you're on leave for unless you're going back to work within 31 days of the date you first applied.

If you are not currently working:

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Limited Capability for Work Benefit or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance. ***You can apply if you are starting or re-starting work within the next 31 days.***

Your income:

Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if applicable) must each expect to earn at least:

- £2,167 if you're aged 23 or over
- £2,117 if you're aged 21 or 22
- £1,557 if you're aged 18 to 20
- £1,098 if you're under 18 or an apprentice

This is at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week on average.

You can use an average of how much you expect to earn over the current tax year if:

- You work throughout the year but do not get paid regularly
- You're self-employed and do not expect to earn enough in the next 3 months

If you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago, you can earn less and still be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare.

To check full eligibility criteria please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

How do I apply for it?

To learn more about to apply for Tax-Free Childcare, watch our video
By clicking the button on the right, or read the information below.

WATCH VIDEO



Before you look to apply for Tax-Free Childcare, make sure you have around 20 minutes available to complete your application. Start by visiting the Apply for Tax-Free Childcare page on gov.uk and click the start now button – this can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>

The first thing you will need to complete your application, is a **Government Gateway ID** which can be set-up using your email address, whilst having your phone to hand so you can provide authorisation. Once you have created your **Government Gateway ID**, it's a good idea to make note of your credentials so these are not forgotten.

You will also need to have your national insurance number ready – please see more details here <https://www.gov.uk/national-insurance/your-national-insurance-number>. If you have a partner, you will need to have theirs too.

If you are self-employed, you will need a unique taxpayer reference – please see more details here <https://www.gov.uk/find-utr-number>

You will also need details for one or more of the following for both you and your partner:

- UK passport
- P60
- Payslip
- Tax credits

Usually, you will find out instantly about what you are entitled to, but if further information is required, you will be contacted by email or telephone within the **next 7 days**.

For more information, feel free to speak to our qualified and passionate nursery team by using the contact details on our specific nursery webpages, submitting an online enquiry, or by visiting www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

For help and support during the application process, feel free to call www.gov.uk on [0300 123 4097](tel:03001234097).

What is Funding Loop?

To learn more about Funding Loop and how to use it, [watch our video by clicking the button on the right](#), or [read the information below](#).

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



If your child is currently in nursery, you may have heard about 'Funding Loop.' To claim Early Years Funding for your child, you must complete a "Parental Declaration" form, providing various bits of information about you and your child.

Funding Loop is a software tool designed to help parents find and apply for this and is simply the name of the software that allows declaration forms to be completed digitally.

Usually, forms must be completed multiple times throughout the child's attendance at the nursery. The Old Station Nursery Group has identified how much time is spent by nursery staff and parents in filing out these forms, so we have decided to invest in Funding Loop. This is so that parents and staff can provide the information required in just a few clicks, saving time for everyone.

What are the benefits?

Signing up and using Funding Loop is a straight-forward process. You will have access to a simple, easy to follow guide that will help you complete forms, as well as providing a quicker way to review information, make automatic calculations, and automatically send your form to our nursery once completed.

All completed documents and forms are available online for future reference but can be downloaded and printed at any time. If you are required to fill in another form for a future term, Funding Loop remembers any previous information entered, making it even easier the second time round.