



Early Years Education and Childcare Entitlements

CONTENTS:

30 HOURS CHILDCARE FOR ELIGIBLE WORKING FAMILIES	1
2HELP CHILDCARE FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FORMS OF SUPPORT	4
UNIVERSAL 15 HOURS CHILDCARE FOR ALL FAMILIES	6
ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS	8
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	10
CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION	12
BECOMING A CHILDMINDER	13



30 HOURS CHILDCARE FOR ELIGIBLE WORKING FAMILIES

For children aged 9 months to 4 years

- Up to 30 hours a week
- 38 weeks a year



WORKING PARENTS MAY BE ENTITLED TO 30 HOURS PER WEEK FROM SEPTEMBER 2025, IF YOU ARE:

- A two-parent family, both working and each earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week paid at the national minimum or living wage
- Each earning less than £100,000 per year

OR

- A single parent, working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week paid at the national minimum or living wage
- Earning less than £100,000 per year

IMMIGRATION STATUS:

To be eligible for the funded childcare, you must have a National Insurance Number and at least one of the following:

- British or Irish citizenship
- Settled or pre-settled status, or have applied and waiting for a decision
- Permission to access public funds, as shown on your UK Residence Card

If you have a partner, they must also have a National Insurance Number.

THE ENTITLEMENT:

The Working Parent funded entitlement is for a maximum of 1140 hours per week over a minimum of 38 weeks of the year, the equivalent of 30 hours per week. The entitlement can be stretched over more than 38 weeks by taking fewer hours per week over more weeks of the year. Please contact your Early Years Provider for information on how they offer the funded entitlements.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD BE ELIGIBLE?

Children usually have a funded entitlement place from the start of the school term after they turn 9 months old.

CHILDREN TURNING 9 MONTHS OLD BETWEEN:	FUNDED PLACES START FROM:
1st January and 31st March	The start of the Summer Term (on or after 1st April) following the date of turning 9 months old
1st April and 31st August	The start of the Autumn Term (on or after 1st September) following the date of turning 9 months old
1st September and 31st December	The start of the Spring Term (on or after 1st January) following the date of turning 9 months old

A valid eligibility code from HMRC will be required.



HOW TO APPLY:

Working parents must apply online for their eligibility code via HMRC at www.beststartinlife.gov.uk



or using the QR Code :

- You must apply the term before you want the place to start
- If you are successful, HMRC will issue you with an eligibility code through your secure account which you must give to your Early Years Provider
- Your Early Years Provider will check your code is valid. You can then reserve your place for the following term. The eligibility code must have a validity start date on or before the following dates:
 - **Autumn Term:** a validity start date on or before 31st August
 - **Spring Term:** a validity start date on or before 31st December
 - **Summer Term:** a validity start date on or before 31st March
- You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months by logging into your secure account. You will be reminded by HMRC 4 weeks before the deadline

HOW DO I CLAIM THE WORKING PARENT ENTITLEMENT?

The Early Years Entitlement funding is paid directly to the Early Years Provider your child attends. They will claim the funding on your behalf when you complete a Parent/Carer/Guardian Declaration Form (PDF) with them.

COMBINING ENTITLEMENTS:

From the term after their third birthday, all children are able to access the Universal 15 hours entitlement (see page 6). If you also have a valid working parent eligibility code, your child will be able to access 15 hours under the Universal entitlement plus 15 hours under the Working Parent entitlement, to take the overall entitlement to a maximum of 30 hours.



2HELP CHILDCARE FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FORMS OF SUPPORT

For children aged 2 years

- Up to 15 hours a week
- 38 weeks a year



YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ACCESS A 2HELP FUNDED CHILDCARE PLACE FOR YOUR 2 YEAR OLD FROM THE TERM AFTER THEIR SECOND BIRTHDAY, IF YOU ARE RECEIVING:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit if your household earned income is less than £15,400 a year after tax

OR

- The child is being looked after by the local authority
- The child has left care through special guardianship or an adoption or child arrangements order
- The child has a current statement of Special Educational Need, or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- The child qualifies for Disability Living Allowance

OR

If your immigration status says you have 'no recourse to public funds', you may be able to access a 2Help funded childcare place for your 2 year old from the term after their second birthday, if you:

- live in England and your annual household income is no more than:
 - o £26,500 for families outside of London with one child
 - o £30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children
- have no more than £16,000 in savings or investments

THE ENTITLEMENT

The 2Help funded entitlement is for a maximum of 570 hours per week over a minimum of 38 weeks of the year, the equivalent of 15 hours per week. The entitlement can be stretched over more than 38 weeks by taking fewer hours per week over more weeks of the year. Please contact your Early Years Provider for information on how they offer the funded entitlements.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD BE ELIGIBLE?

Children usually have a 2Help funded entitlement place from the start of the school term after their second birthday.

CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN:	FUNDED PLACES START FROM:
1st January and 31st March	The start of the Summer Term (on or after 1st April) following their 2nd birthday
1st April and 31st August	The start of the Autumn Term (on or after 1st September) following their 2nd birthday
1st September and 31st December	The start of the Spring Term (on or after 1st January) following their 2nd birthday

HOW TO APPLY:

You can apply online at
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts
or using the QR code:



- Your application is checked for eligibility using the Government's Eligibility Checking System (ECS)
- If you are eligible, a funding confirmation letter, detailing your EY Voucher Code, will be emailed or posted to you to confirm a funded place
- You will also be sent a list of childcare settings in your area who offer funded 2Help places
- You will need to show your chosen setting your funding confirmation letter and give them your EY Voucher Code
- If your eligibility cannot be confirmed, you will be asked for supporting evidence

HOW DO I CLAIM THE 2HELP FUNDED ENTITLEMENT?:

The 2Help funding is paid directly to the Early Years Provider your child attends. They will claim the funding on your behalf when you complete a Parent/Carer/Guardian Declaration Form (PDF) with them.

COMBINING ENTITLEMENTS:

If you and your partner (if you have one) are working and have a valid working parent eligibility code (see page 1), you may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours under the Working Parent entitlement, to take the overall entitlement to a maximum of 30 hours.



UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT FOR ALL FAMILIES

For children aged 3 to 4 years

- Up to 15 hours a week
- 38 weeks a year



All children can access the 15 hours Universal entitlement from the term after their 3rd birthday until they reach statutory school age or start school reception class, whichever is the earliest.

THE ENTITLEMENT:

The Universal funded entitlement is for a maximum of 570 hours per week over a minimum of 38 weeks of the year, the equivalent of 15 hours per week. The entitlement can be stretched over more than 38 weeks by taking fewer hours per week over more weeks of the year. Please contact your Early Years Provider for information on how they offer the funded entitlements.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD BE ELIGIBLE?

ALL children are automatically entitled to the 15 hours Universal entitlement from the term following their 3rd birthday. There is no application process to qualify.

CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN:	FREE PLACES START FROM:
1st January and 31st March	The start of the Summer Term (on or after 1st April) following their 3rd birthday
1st April and 31st August	The start of the Autumn Term (on or after 1st September) following their 3rd birthday
1st September and 31st December	The start of the Spring Term (on or after 1st January) following their 3rd birthday

HOW TO APPLY:

There is no need to apply and no code is required.

HOW DO I CLAIM THE UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT?

The Early Years Entitlement funding is paid directly to the Early Years Provider your child attends. They will claim the funding on your behalf when you complete a Parent/Carer/Guardian Declaration Form (PDF) with them.

COMBINING ENTITLEMENTS:

If you and your partner (if you have one) are working and have a valid working parent eligibility code (see page 1), your child will be able to access 15 hours under the Universal entitlement plus 15 hours under the Working Parent entitlement, to take the overall entitlement to a maximum of 30 hours.



ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS

EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is additional funding that Early Years Providers can claim for children whose parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits or credits or one of the other qualifying criteria is met. It is paid termly based on the funded hours claimed, to providers who have children who are accessing the entitlements and meeting the eligibility criteria up to a maximum of 570 hours. Where children are eligible for 30 hours, EYPP will be paid on the first 15 hours, up to a total of 570 hours in a year.

The EYPP supports the quality of early education for eligible children taking up the early years entitlements. Early Years Providers are able to use this extra funding to support eligible children to improve educational outcomes for them and can spend it on many things such as activities, staff training and resources.

A child will be eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) if their parents are in receipt of one of the following benefits or credits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit with an annual net household income equivalent to and not exceeding £7,400, assessed on up to three most recent Universal Credit assessment periods

OR THE CHILD HAS:

- Been Looked After by the local authority for at least one day
- Been Adopted from care
- Left care through Special Guardianship
- A child arrangements order

HOW TO CLAIM

To claim for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), you must fully complete the EYPP application section on the Parent/Carer/Guardian Declaration Form (PDF) given to you by your Early Years Provider.

DISABILITY ACCESS FUND

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) supports eligible disabled children's access to the early years entitlements and can be claimed by Early Years Providers where children meet the qualifying criteria.

The DAF can be used to support Early Years Providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity, be that for the child in question or for the benefit of all children attending the setting. Early Years Providers may also use DAF funding to pay for staff training, resources and adjustments to support the individual child's needs.

Children may be eligible for Disability Access Fund (DAF), if they meet the following criteria:

- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

AND

- The child receives the Early Years Entitlement funding

HOW TO CLAIM

To claim for the Disability Access Fund (DAF), you must fully complete the DAF application section on the Parent/Carer/Guardian Declaration Form (PDF) given to you by your Early Years Provider.



EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHERE CAN MY CHILD ACCESS A PLACE?:

Your child can access their Early Years education place with an Early Years Provider such as:

- Full day care nurseries
- Pre-Schools
- Playgroups
- Childminders
- Nursery Schools and classes

These Early Years providers must be either registered with Ofsted or a Childminder Agency. They are responsible for claiming the funding for your child's place directly from Warwickshire County Council and must be registered to do so.

CHARGES:

The Early Years Entitlements are intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible early education and care. The 15 or 30 hours must be able to be accessed free of charge to parents; that is, there must not be any mandatory charges for parents in relation to the free hours.

The Early Years Entitlements funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services. Providers can charge for consumables, meals and snacks, extra activities and additional hours provided they are not mandatory charges or a condition of accessing a place.

The costs of chargeable extras should be published on provider websites or, where they do not have a website, on those of local authority Family Information Services. These should be clear, up-to-date and easily accessible to parents, to enable parents to make an informed choice of provider.

CAN I CLAIM THE EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENT AT MORE THAN ONE EARLY YEARS PROVIDER?:

Yes, up to a maximum of 2 sites in one day.

CAN I CHANGE SETTINGS?:

Funding will normally be paid for the whole term to the provider the child attends on Headcount Day. If your child moves before or after the Headcount Day, you will need to speak to your Early Years Provider to find out if they will agree to share the claim with the other provider.



CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

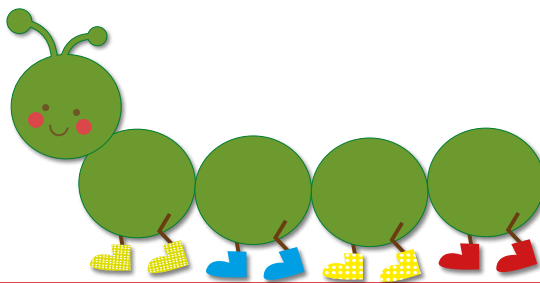
For more information about early years providers in Warwickshire or help finding a place with an early years provider in your area, please contact the Family Information Service on: 0800 408 1558 or fis@warwickshire.gov.uk or www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis

For eligibility and online application enquiries for the working parent entitlements please contact:
HMRC's Customer Interaction Centre on 0300 123 4097 or www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

For 2Help funding enquiries please contact the Early Years Entitlements Team on: 01926 742218, 2help@warwickshire.gov.uk or www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts

For general funding enquiries please contact the Early Years Entitlements Team on: 01926 742233, eyfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk or www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts

For information about all government help with childcare costs please visit: www.beststartinlife.gov.uk



WOULD YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH CHILDREN?

If you love working with children and have a home that's suitable for childcare, we want to hear from you

Childminders can now also operate entirely from locations that are not their own home.

REWARDING
CAREER

FLEXIBLE HOURS

WORK FROM
HOME

BECOME A
CHILDMINDER



Find out more information at
[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/
childcare/become-childminder](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcare/become-childminder)

including the support offered
and how to sign up to offer early
years entitlement funding



Warwickshire
County Council

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