

Funded childcare places

All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to 570 hours of funded childcare. This is usually taken as a maximum of 15 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year, in line with Leicestershire's school term dates, but can be taken as fewer hours over more weeks.

Some [2 year olds are also eligible](#).

30 hours funded childcare - check if you're eligible

The extended entitlement is intended to support working parents with the cost of childcare and enable them to return to work or to work additional hours.

Working parents who meet the criteria can get 30 hours per week (for up to 38 weeks per year, a total of 1140 hours) of funded childcare.

If you're having difficulty completing an eligibility check or have a query about the result, you should contact 0300 123 4097.

To check if you are eligible for any support with childcare costs, visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk **Opens another website in new window.**

- [30 Hours funded childcare for foster parents](#) **Hide content**

Tax-free childcare

If you're a working parent with children under 12 (or under 17 for disabled children), you can open an online account to pay for registered childcare. The government will top-up the money you pay into the account. For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2. You can receive up to £2,000 **per child**.

Universal Credit

If you, and any partner, are working, or you're due to start work, and you're claiming Universal Credit, you can claim back up to 85% of

your eligible childcare costs for children under 16. You could get up to £646 a month for one child, or £1,108 for two or more.

Using your 30 hours

If eligible, you can:

- use up to 30 hours per week
- split your hours over more than one provider
- use a maximum of 10 hours in any one day
- only use hours between 6am and 8pm
- use the 30 hours as part of a stretched offer, banking hours to use in the holiday periods if your provider offers this

Using more than one provider

You can spread your funded hours between a maximum of 2 settings per day. The council will work out how the funding payments are split between providers based on the information submitted by the setting. Where parents are taking up a place for an eligible 2 year old, the council would suggest that only one provider is used.

When your child is eligible

You can start claiming your funded places the period after your child turns 3 (or the period after your child turns 2 if they are eligible). The date you can claim will depend on when their birthday is.

Child's birthday between:

When you can claim:

1 January to 31 March

From the 1 April following their 3rd birthday, or if eligible, following their 2nd birthday

1 April to 31 August

From the 1 September following their 3rd birthday, or if eligible, following their 2nd birthday

Child's birthday between:**When you can claim:**

1 September to 31 December

From the 1 January following their 3rd birthday, or if eligible, following their 2nd birthday

Example:

Your child was born on 15 February 2016. They'll become eligible for the funded place from the 1 April 2019.

Starting school

Your child may be offered a place in a nursery or reception class when they are 4 years old if you've applied for a school place.

Once a child is attending school, even on a part-time basis, you're no longer entitled to funding.

Your child doesn't have to attend school until they are compulsory school age (the term after their fifth birthday).

Further information about starting school is in the **'Your Guide to Primary Education'**.

Funding for 2 year olds

Some 2 year olds in England can also get the childcare funding.

Your 2-year-old can get free childcare if you live in England and get 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
- tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

2-year-olds can also get free childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have a statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

Non-EEA citizens who cannot claim benefits

Your 2-year-old may get free childcare if you are getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:

- claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as ‘part 6’)
- been refused asylum in the UK (known as ‘section 4’)

A 2-year-old you care for may also get free childcare if your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and you have either:

- leave to remain with ‘no recourse to public funds’ on family or private life grounds
- the right to live in the UK because you’re the main carer of a British citizen (known as a ‘Zambrano Carer’)

Child's birthday and applicable claim dates

If your child is eligible, you can start claiming the term after they turn 2. The date you can claim will depend on when their birthday is.

Child’s birthday

between:

When you can claim:

1 January and 31 March

From the 1 April following their 2nd birthday

Child's birthday between:

When you can claim:

1 April and 31 August

From the 1 September following their
2nd birthday

1 September and 31
December

From the 1 January following their 2nd
birthday

Check your child's eligibility

You can check if your child is eligible on **Leicestershire's Citizen Portal**. You can also ask your childcare provider to help you check:

How-to: Portal Registration and Changing Your Details PDF, 356 kb **Opens new window**

Apply

If you haven't used the portal before or for more than 12 months, you'll need to register. You will then be able to apply for funding for your 2 year old:

How-to: Apply for 2 Year Old Funding PDF, 443 kb **Opens new window**

Leicestershire Citizen's Portal Opens another website in new window

Blue Badges help people with disabilities or health conditions park closer to their destination.

You automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if you are over 2 years old and **meet the criteria**.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The EYPP is extra Government money to boost three or four year old's early learning. The nursery, pre-school, childminder or out of school provider that you use could get up to £300 a year to help your

child's learning. Your childcare provider will work with you to decide how best to spend the money to ensure your child really benefits.

Your child could benefit from

- Exciting new learning activities
- Extra equipment to help with learning
- Toys, books and equipment to use at home to help them learn
- One to one or small group sessions
- Opportunities to widen their life experiences

Who could benefit from this money?

Children will be eligible if they are 3 or 4 years old, receiving a funded place with any Ofsted registered childcare provider and their parents are in receipt of one or more of the benefits below:

- 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
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal credit – provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

The leaflet below gives parents the opportunity to find out if their child may be eligible for the extra funding. Parents should complete the details requested and ask their childcare provider to see if they are eligible.

Providers will need to check with you on an annual basis to ensure continuity of your funding.

[Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\) leaflet for parents](#)

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

Children who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and accessing their 3 and 4 year old funding (including the extended entitlement) will be eligible for the DAF.

The DAF payment doesn't provide parents with a discount to their childcare costs, but instead allows providers to maximise the potential of children in their setting through the support of additional resources, staff or activities, making reasonable adjustments where necessary to ensure a quality experience for all children.

Your early year's provider will need to check that your child is in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA), taking a copy of your confirmation and you will also be asked to complete a Parent Statement of Undertaking. On this form you will be asked to nominate the setting to receive the DAF. If you are splitting your funded hours over more than 1 provider please be aware that only one provider can receive the annual DAF payment.

You should also be aware that if you change providers during the year that the DAF payment will not follow you.

Inclusion funding for children with SEND

Most children with special educational or additional needs are successfully included in educational settings, without the need to increase the number of staff. However, in circumstances where children with the most complex needs would benefit from additional staffing, top-up inclusion funding may be available.

Funding is also available to buy special equipment for individual children, when recommended by an Occupational Therapist.

Who can apply

If you are an early years provider educating children with very complex needs, you may be eligible to apply for inclusion funding.

Other independent childminders, nurseries or pre-schools, validated by the council to provide early learning, can also apply for a contribution towards additional staffing.

We accept applications for funding for children who attend Leicestershire Early Years providers only. For children that live in Leicestershire, but attend a non-Leicestershire provider, then the provider will request funding from their local authority.

For children that live outside of Leicestershire, but attend a Leicestershire provider, then the provider will request funding from Leicestershire.

If parents or carers have any concerns regarding the panel's decision they should discuss this with the designated officer contact details below. If a concern cannot be resolved at this point, then the matter should be taken to Suzanne Wilson, service manager, Early Learning and Childcare Service at the correspondence below.

Please note: The information on this page is designed for parents. If you are an Early Years provider see: [Inclusion funding for children with high needs](#)**Opens another website in new window_.**

Contact details

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