



HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



Upcoming changes to childcare support

The financial support that is available to parents to help with the cost of childcare is increasing. These include major changes to make it easier for parents with childcare responsibilities to move into or take on more paid work. Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support will be expanded in phases. By September 2025, working parents with children aged 9 months old to when they start school will be eligible for 30 hours childcare support.

Furthermore, from Summer 2023 eligible working parents claiming Universal Credit will be able to receive more financial help with their childcare costs, and additional financial support with upfront payments when moving into paid work or increasing their working hours.

HOW MANY HOURS OF CHILDCARE CAN YOU GET PER WEEK?

Age 3-4 years				Age 2 years				Age 9-23 months	
ALL PARENTS				FAMILIES WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS				WORKING FAMILIES	
15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	SEP 2024	SEP 2025
WORKING FAMILIES				WORKING FAMILIES					
30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS			
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025			

*38 weeks a year. Eligibility criteria apply. Providers may ask for charges in addition to the free childcare.

The current offer

In England, all parents and carers of 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours a week childcare support with registered childcare providers. Eligible working parents and carers of children aged 3-4 can also get an additional 15 hours childcare support, bringing their total up to 30 hours a week.

Some parents of 2-year-old children may also be entitled to 15 hours support.

Your hours can be used per week for 38 weeks of the year (during school term time). You may be able use your hours for up to 52 weeks if you use fewer than your total hours per week. Check with your childcare provider to find out if this is something they offer.

You can use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit for Childcare whilst claiming your 15 or 30 hours of childcare support.

Check here to [find the right offer for you](#) and [how to apply for 30 hours of childcare](#).

There are similar childcare support schemes in [Scotland- external link](#) and [Wales- external link](#).

The upcoming expansion

Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support will be expanded in phases. By September 2025, most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support.

The changes are being introduced gradually to make sure that providers can meet the needs of more families. This means that:

From **April 2024**, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.

From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to all children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds.

From **September 2025**, working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

Like the existing offer, depending on your provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year (during school term time), or up to 52 weeks if you use fewer than your total hours per week.

Coming changes

From summer 2023, working parents on Universal Credit will be able to receive more financial help with their childcare costs from a registered provider. This will be to up to the maximum amount of £951 per month for 1 child or up to £1,630 per month for 2 or more children. Eligible parents claiming Universal Credit will also be able to get additional help with their upfront childcare costs when moving into paid work or increasing their working hours so that they can more easily pay their next set of costs. Parents who are moving into paid work or increasing their working hours can speak to their Universal Credit work coach who can provide more information.