

# Help with childcare costs: Free childcare for working families



This easy read document tells you about free childcare for working families with children aged more than 9 months and under 5 years.

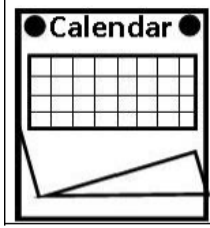


This document is part of a set of easy read information about help with childcare costs. [The full list of easy read documents is at the end of this document.](#)

## What is childcare funding for working families?



Eligible working families with children aged more than 9 months and less than 5 years can have up to 30 hours of free childcare per week.



The 30 hours of free childcare is available for up to 38 weeks of the year – a total of 1,140 hours per year.



If you need childcare throughout the year, for example during school holidays, you can choose to spread the 1,140 hours throughout the year by taking less than 30 hours a week.



The free childcare can be used at a range of early years settings including nursery schools and classes, day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, and registered childminders.



You can use the funding at up to two childcare providers as long as you don't exceed the maximum of 1,140 hours per year.

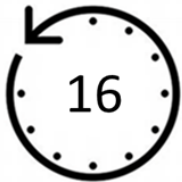
## Who is eligible for free childcare?



To have the funding you, and your partner if you have one, must:



- Both be working.



- Earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage.



- Each earn less than £100,000 a year.



If you or your partner are not working because either of you are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, you may still be eligible for the free childcare.

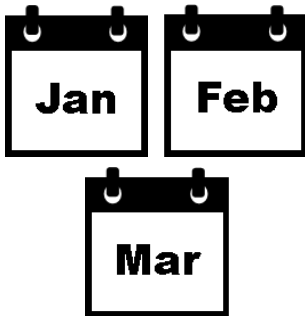


If you or your partner is not working because either of you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you may still be eligible for the free childcare.



Eligibility starts in the school term after your child turns nine months old.

**If your child was born in  
January, February or March**

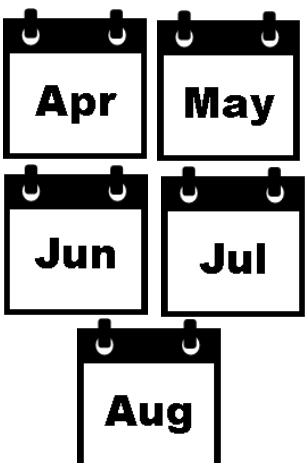


The free childcare funding begins in the term starting on or after 1 April.

The deadline to apply is 31 March.

We recommend you apply between  
15 January and 28 January.

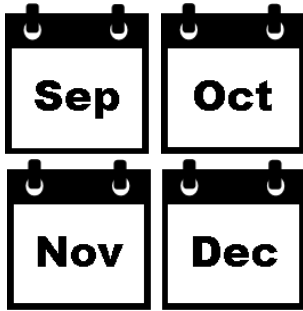
**If your child was born in  
April, May, June, July or August**



The free childcare funding begins in the term starting on or after 1 September.

The deadline to apply is 31 August.

We recommended you apply between  
15 June and 30 June.



**If your child was born in  
September, October, November or  
December**

The free childcare funding begins in the term starting on or after 1 January.

The final deadline to apply is 31 November.

We recommended you apply  
between 15 October and 30 November.

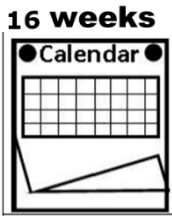


If you are not eligible for 30 hours funding childcare as a working parent, you may still be entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds under a different scheme.



We have a separate easy **read document** that tells you about 15 hours of funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

## How to apply



You can apply up to 16 weeks before your child turns nine months old.

You will need:



- your National Insurance (NI) number



- The date you started or are due to start work



- Details of any government benefits you receive



- Your child's UK Birth Certificate number (if you have one)



Before you apply, you must contact us your child is aged 2 or 3 and any receives **extra support**.

**Extra support** here means:



- You get Universal Credit and your household income is £15,400 or less



- Your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)



- Your child gets Disability Living Allowance



- Your child has left care under an adoption order or child arrangements order



We have a separate **easy read document** with more information about funded childcare for 2 and 3 year olds whose parents receive extra support.



To apply for free childcare for working parents, [complete the online form on the GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).



If your application is successful, you will be given a code.



You will need to send this to your chosen childcare provider(s). They will also need your National Insurance (NI) number and your child's date of birth.



The provider will check the code is valid.



If you have applied in advance, you might receive the code before your child is eligible. You won't be able to use it until the child is nine months old.





Every 3 months you will have to confirm that your details are up to date.

## What does the funding cover?



The funding can be used to pay for childcare at a registered childcare provider. You can find childcare providers near you on the [Notts Help Yourself Families Information Service Directory](#).



The funding can only be used for childcare. It does not cover the costs of meals, nappies, suncream, additional hours or extra activities such as trips.



Childcare providers may charge you money for these things.

## Customer Service Centre



Our Customer Service Centre can answer most of your questions and help with information and form filling.

There are several ways to contact them, including:



**Web:** [Use our online contact form](#)



**Telephone:** 0300 500 80 80



**Text Relay:** 18001 0115 977 4050

People who have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to communicate via text can use the Text Relay service through the [Relay UK app](#).



### Sign Video

People who use British Sign Language to communicate can use the [SignVideo app](#) to speak with us.

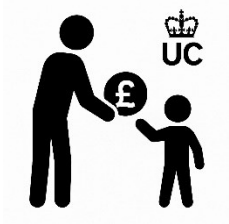
## Other childcare funding easy read documents



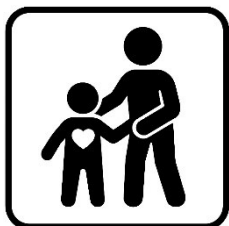
You can read our other easy read documents with specific information on childcare support for:



- [Tax free childcare for working families of children aged 0-11 \(or 0-16 if the child has disabilities\)](#)



- [Universal Credit for childcare](#)



- [Families receiving additional forms of financial support with children aged 2](#)



- [Disability Access Fund](#)



- [Childcare support for students](#)

## **Links in this document**

### **GOV.UK – apply for free childcare for working parents**

[gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working](https://gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

### **Notts Help Yourself – Families Information Service Directory**

[nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/results.page?newdirectorychannel=2](https://nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/results.page?newdirectorychannel=2)

### **Nottinghamshire County Council – contact us form**

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform)

### **Relay UK app**

[www.relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html](https://www.relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html)

### **SignVideo app**

[signvideo.co.uk/download](https://signvideo.co.uk/download)

### **Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Tax-free childcare**

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-tax-free-childcare-easy-read](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-tax-free-childcare-easy-read)

## **Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Universal Credit for childcare**

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-universal-credit-for-childcare-easy-read](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-universal-credit-for-childcare-easy-read)

## **Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Families receiving additional forms of financial support with children aged 2**

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-families-receiving-additional-support-with-2-year-old-children-easy-read](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-families-receiving-additional-support-with-2-year-old-children-easy-read)

## **Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Disability Access Fund**

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-disability-access-fund-easy-read](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-disability-access-fund-easy-read)

## **Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Childcare support for students**

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-for-parents-who-are-students-easy-read](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-for-parents-who-are-students-easy-read)

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Help with childcare costs \(Nottinghamshire County Council\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/help-with-childcare-costs)

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/help-with-childcare-costs

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