



HM Government

Help for
Households



Get help that
fits your family

Government support with the
costs of childcare could help
you **juggle work and life.**

Childcare
Choices

Even more childcare support for working parents

Alongside the existing offers for 3 and 4 year olds, the government is expanding childcare support, so it's affordable and accessible for even more working parents.

APR
2024

SEP
2024

SEP
2025

For eligible working families in England.

Each parent earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours/week at national minimum wage but under £100,000 adjusted net income/year.

15 hours childcare for 38 weeks per year (up to 570 hours) **for 2 year olds**

15 hours childcare for 38 weeks per year (up to 570 hours) **for children between 9 and 23 months old**

30 hours childcare for 38 weeks per year (up to 1,140 hours) **for children from 9 months up to school age**

What about before and after school childcare?

If you are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare, you can use the support to help pay for before and after school childcare, also known as 'wraparound childcare'.

This includes regular before and after school provision that runs from 8am until 6pm or later, either on a school site or at another local setting.

To support more working families, from September 2024, parents of primary school children in England can expect to see an increase in wraparound childcare.

To find out more, talk to your child's school or your local authority's Family Information Service.

Get help paying for your childcare

Childcare costs can put a strain on families' budgets, but existing government support available now could help you with:

15 hours childcare for all families in England with 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks of the year.

30 hours childcare for eligible working parents in England with 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks of the year.

Tax-Free Childcare: eligible working parents with children aged 11 or under can get up to £2,000 per child each year towards their childcare costs, or up to £4,000 for children with a disability aged 16 or under.

Universal Credit Childcare: eligible working parents in the UK can claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs for children aged 0-16. Plus, eligible parents can access Universal Credit funds upfront, helping those who are starting a job or increasing work hours.

And did you know..?

- You can use your 15/30 hours alongside other childcare schemes such as Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare.
- You can use your hours at up to two different providers per day, and hours can be accepted at a variety of childcare providers, including nurseries, childminders, and preschools.
- Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' your hours across the year, by using fewer hours over more weeks, giving you more flexibility.
- If you have a new baby, you can claim Child Benefit online. Visit [gov.uk/child-benefit](https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit) to find out more and apply.
- You can find free and affordable family events near you by using the Help for Households map at bit.ly/h4hmap.
- You can learn more about wider financial support by searching **Help for Households**.



What to do next

Visit childcarechoices.gov.uk to check what help you might be eligible for now and in the future and when best to apply

15/30 hours childcare	Tax-Free Childcare	Universal Credit Childcare
Follow the steps on gov.uk to get your childcare code by 31st March for your child to start in childcare from 1st April; by 31st August to start from 1st September; or by 31st December to start from 1st January, following your child turning the relevant age	Follow the steps on gov.uk to create a Tax-Free Childcare account	Search Universal Credit Childcare Costs to check your eligibility
If you haven't used a childcare provider before or want to change it, find the right one for you and check whether they offer 15/30 hours childcare	If you have more than one eligible child, create an account for each child	Contact your work coach about your options
Give your code to your childcare provider	The government top-up is then applied to deposits made for each child, not households	Check with your local authority whether you might also be eligible for additional forms of government support
Reconfirm your details every three months on your gov.uk account to continue receiving the government support		



Scan the **QR code** or search **Childcare Choices** to find out more