

Early Education Funding – Working Parents

Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support started to 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 first phase of these offers commenced in April 2024, for children aged 2 of working parents followed by the second phase in September 2024 for children aged 9 months+ being eligible for 15 hours funded childcare if their parents meet the necessary eligibility criteria.

For a child to be eligible to take up a place in September 2024, they need to have been born **before 31st November 2023**.

To apply for an eligibility code, each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible.

Parents have until **31st August 2024** to apply for a code. Applications made after this date will not be eligible for funding for the Autumn Term, and parents may have to re-verify before the code will be valid for the January Term. All applications must be made via the [Childcare Choices website](#).

There is more information on what childcare support is available to parents on the [Childcare Choices website](#), where you can explore the early education entitlements and other government help towards childcare costs.

Parents who are already using Tax Free Childcare will be able to apply for an eligibility funding code for this childcare offer when their next re-verification window opens.

Together for Children cannot assist with applications however we can offer general advice and guidance if necessary. Please contact the Families Information Service on 0191 520 5553.