



# Here to help you juggle family life

**In the beautiful chaos  
of parenthood, balance  
is everything – but it can  
sometimes be hard to find.**

Childcare Choices is here to support you with expanded childcare options that can help give your child a great start, get them ready for school, and make the juggle a little easier.



HM Government

Childcare  
**Choices**

# Imagine what childcare support could do for your family

**Juggling family life and childcare can be challenging. That's why we're expanding childcare support to help more parents find the support that fits their family.**

If you are a working parent with a child aged between 9 months and 4 years old, you could get 30 hours childcare each week, over 38 weeks a year.

## You might be eligible for this support if:

- Your child is aged between **9 months and 4 years old**.
- You live in **England**.
- You and your partner (if you have one) each earn the equivalent of **16 hours a week at the national minimum or living wage** but less than £100,000 a year (adjusted net income). You may still be eligible if one parent meets the criteria but the other is receiving certain benefits.

Don't forget that **all parents of 3 and 4 year olds** living in England can already get 15 hours childcare.

## Using your childcare hours

- If you meet the criteria, you can **start using your hours the term after your child reaches the right age**. Terms start on 1 January, 1 April, and 1 September.
- **Check or update your details every 3 months** to keep getting your childcare hours. Don't worry, you'll get a reminder when it's time.
- **You can use your hours alongside other schemes** like Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare. You can mix and match between nurseries, childminders and pre-schools.
- **You may be asked to pay for certain optional additional services on top of your entitlement hours**, although these must not be a condition of accessing your government-funded place. Speak to your provider for more information.
- **Different providers might have their own rules** for using childcare hours. Check that their hours work for you.

Use our **online eligibility tool** to check what options are available to you.



## How to get your code

- 1 Visit [ChildcareChoices.gov.uk](https://ChildcareChoices.gov.uk)** to check your eligibility.
- 2 Speak to your provider** to understand their arrangements and to see if they can offer your child a place.
- 3 Apply for your code online.** You'll need your National Insurance number (or unique taxpayer reference if self-employed), the date you started or are due to start work, details of any government support or benefits you receive, and your child's UK birth certificate reference number (if available).
- 4 Give your code to your provider.** You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days to get your code.
- 5 Reconfirm your details** on your childcare account every 3 months.

## Application deadlines

To get your 30 hours childcare code, apply by:

- **31 August 2025** to use it from 1 September 2025.
- **31 December 2025** to use it from 1 January 2026.
- **31 March 2026** to use it from 1 April 2026.

## Wraparound childcare

Since September 2024, more wraparound childcare places have become available for primary school aged children in England.

Wraparound childcare typically runs before and after school from around 8am until 6pm, during term time, either on a school site or another local setting such as a community centre, a nursery, or a childminder.

If you are eligible, you can use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare to help pay for your place. Speak to your child's school or local authority's Family Information Service to learn more.

## Free breakfast clubs

The first 750 of the government's free universal breakfast clubs launched in April 2025, with these schools providing 30-minute sessions before school where children get a free breakfast, so they start the day ready to learn.

If your child's school is among the first 750, they will contact you directly about how to sign up for the new breakfast clubs.

More details on the national rollout will be available soon, as part of the government's pledge to provide a free breakfast club in every state-funded primary school in England. Search **Childcare Choices** to find out more.



## Help for families receiving additional forms of support

Your 2 year old can get funded early learning if you live in England and receive some additional forms of support, for example if you get Universal Credit, or your child has an education, health and care plan (EHC), is looked after, or was previously looked after. You could also be eligible if you can't access benefits because of your immigration status.

- This scheme is different from the 30 hours offered to working parents.
- To see if you're eligible, visit the [Childcare Choices website](#).
- If you qualify, contact your childcare provider or local council directly.
- If you have difficulty finding a childcare provider, please contact your local authority's Family Information Service.



### See what support you could get

You can find out using the eligibility checker on our website. Simply scan the QR code or search '**Childcare Choices**'.