



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, 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 3 years old, you could now get 15 hours childcare each week, over 38 weeks a year.

From September 2025, this will increase to 30 hours childcare a week over 38 weeks a year, from the term after your child turns 9 months old.

You might be eligible for this support if:

- Your child is aged between **9 months and 3 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.

If you are eligible, you can combine these with 15 hours for working parents, making **30 hours a week for your 3 and 4 year olds**.

“Accessing childcare support has been a game changer for our family.

“It's such a relief knowing my daughters are in a loving and fun environment with great early years educators. My youngest loves socialising with other children, as well as being in a setting full of great resources and a wide range of activities.”

Sheryl D uses 30 hours childcare and Tax-Free 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.
- If your 2 year old already uses 15 hours for working parents and then turns 3, just **reconfirm as usual** and the code will work for the 30 hours offer.
- **You can use your hours alongside other schemes** like Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare. You can mix and match between nurseries, childminders, pre-schools, and playgroups.
- **Childcare hours don't cover everything**. For activities, extra hours or costs like meals, just check with your provider about any extra charges.
- **Different providers might have their own rules** for using childcare hours. Check that their hours work for you.

How to get your code

- 1 Visit [ChildcareChoices.gov.uk](https://www.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.
- 5 Reconfirm your details** on your childcare account every 3 months.

When do I need to apply by?

31 March 2025
to get your 15 or 30 hours childcare code to use from 1 April 2025.

31 August 2025
to get your 30 hours childcare code to use from 1 September 2025.

31 December 2025
to get your 30 hours childcare code to use from 1 January 2026.



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 15 and 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 quickly check using the free tool on our website. Simply scan the QR code or search '**Childcare Choices**'.