

Early Years Funding – Schemes and Support available as of September 2024

From September 2024 the Government will provide funding for the following schemes.

Please note that children under 3 years old will need to meet set criteria to be eligible to claim early years funding. The universal early years offer of 15 hours a week (less hours if stretched) is only available the term following a children 3rd birthday. Funding will only be provided to children who have a valid funding code.

Children under the age of 3 years old cannot claim more than 15 hours of funding a week.

If a 2-year-old child is eligible for the Targeted and Working Parent Entitlement, we recommend claiming using the Targeted scheme, as this does not require reconfirmation with HMRC every 3 months. This advice is subject to change as the schemes are extended in September 2025.

Eligibility codes issued by HMRC remain with the child for the duration of their whole funding claim. Parents will need to reconfirm their codes every 3 months but they will not have to reapply for a new code as their child ages.

Scheme Name	Criteria	Availability	Application	Hours Available	Reapplication Requirements	Claims & Validation
Targeted Funding	<p>AGE – 2 Years Old</p> <p>For families on low income or meeting specific criteria. Link: Two year olds - Brighter Futures For Children</p>	At the beginning of term following a child's 2 nd birthday.	<p>Parent must apply for a 6-digit code via Brighter Futures for Childrens Citizen Portal. Link: Synergy - Enquiry (servelec-synergy.com)</p>	15 hours a week or equivalent stretched. Maximum 570 hours a year	Not required once code obtained.	The 6-digit code should be entered when adding the child to the Provider Portal headcount claim. Brighter Futures for Children only issue codes to eligible children, therefore if they have a Targeted code, they will be eligible.

Scheme Name	Criteria	Availability	Application	Hours Available	Reapplication Requirements	Claims & Validation
Working Parent Entitlement or Expanded Entitlement	<p>AGE – From 9 Months Old</p> <p>Available to children who have two working parents or a working single parent. Link: Childcare Choices 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More Help with Costs GOV.UK</p>	<p>At the beginning of the term following a child's 9 month birthday.</p> <p>If 9 months old before:</p> <p>1st September eligible in autumn</p> <p>1st December eligible in spring</p> <p>1st April eligible in summer</p>	<p>Parent must apply for a 11-digit code from HMRC. Link: Childcare Choices 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More Help with Costs GOV.UK</p>	<p>15 hours a week or equivalent stretched. Maximum 570 hours a year</p>	<p>Parents must confirm their codes every 3 months or when prompted to do so by HMRC</p>	<p>The 11-digit codes can be validated using the Eligibility Checker on the Provider Portal (same as the 30 hours eligibility checker). This code should also be entered when adding the claim to the term headcount.</p>
Universal Entitlement	<p>AGE – 3 to 4 Years Old</p> <p>Available for all 3 and 4 year old children regardless of circumstance or income.</p>	<p>At the beginning of term following a child's 3rd birthday until they reach statutory school age.</p>	<p>No application required</p>	<p>15 hours a week or equivalent stretched. Maximum 570 hours a year</p>	<p>Not required</p>	

Scheme Name	Criteria	Availability	Application	Hours Available	Reapplication Requirements	Claims & Validation
30 Hours Extended Entitlement	<p>AGE – 3 to 4 Years Old</p> <p>Available to children who have two working parents or a working single parent. Link: Childcare Choices 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More Help with Costs GOV.UK</p>	At the beginning of term following a child's 3 rd birthday until they reach statutory school age.	<p>Parent must apply for a 11-digit code from HMRC. Link: Childcare Choices 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More Help with Costs GOV.UK</p>	<p>30 hours a week or equivalent stretched. Maximum 1140 hours a year</p>	Parents must confirm their codes every 3 months or when prompted to do so by HMRC	The 11-digit codes can be validated using the Eligibility Checker on the Provider Portal (same as the 30 hours eligibility checker). This code should also be entered when adding the claim to the term headcount.
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	<p>AGE – From 9 Months Old</p> <p>Additional hourly funding for childcare providers to support for children on low incomes, benefits or who have been looked after. Link: Reading Directory Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)</p>	Available for all children claiming an Early Years Entitlement funded place	Parents details are checked automatically if supplied on the headcount claims.	<p>15 hours a week or equivalent stretched. Maximum 570 hours a year</p>	Not required	Parents details are checked automatically if supplied on the headcount claims.

Scheme Name	Criteria	Availability	Application	Hours Available	Reapplication Requirements	Claims & Validation
Disability Access Funding (DAF)	<p>AGE – From 9 Months Old</p> <p>Lump sum payment for childcare providers to provide support for children on Disability Living Allowance. Link: Reading Directory Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)</p>	Available for all children claiming an Early Years Entitlement funded place	The childcare provider needs to submit a form to the early years team along with evidence of the child's DLA entitlement.	Yearly lump sum payment	Provider may reapply on the anniversary of original claim	Proof of Disability Living Allowance

** Additional updates will be added in **September 2025** when the Government rolls out 30 hours funding for all children aged between 9 months to school age from working families.