

The Little Lot Nursery

Funded childcare

Please contact <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/15-and-30-hours-childcare-support> for the full information about funded hours.

Government funding is intended to pay for 15 hours a week of high quality, flexible childcare for all parents. The 15 hours must be able to be accessed free of charge to parents. From September 2025 eligible working parents may be able to increase to 30 hours per week.

Your 2-year-old can get funded early learning if you live in England and get any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Your benefits will not be affected if you take up the 15 hours early learning offer. 2-year-olds can also get funded childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

No income thresholds apply.

If your child is in receipt of 15 hours of early learning for families receiving some additional forms of support, you may also be eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). EYPP is paid to childcare providers and gives them additional funding to support learning and development for children. You can see if you're eligible for EYPP on GOV.UK and speak with your provider or local council to apply.

If you have already applied for and are currently using the 15 hours, you will automatically get 30 hours from September, as long as you're still eligible and your provider has confirmed your new attendance pattern for your increased hours. You'll need to confirm your details are up to date in the usual way and give the code to your childcare provider.

Government funding does not cover

- meals
- nappies
- additional hours
- additional activities, such as trips

So you might be asked to pay for these things. However, these charges must not be mandatory, or a condition of accessing a funded place and you can speak to your

You are not able to use the entitlements for a nanny, home carer, or for childcare provided by a relative, such as a grandparent.

When you can access the working parent offer

The table below shows when you must apply for and can access this funded support:

If your child's birthday is:	Apply by deadline for funding:	Access working parent entitlement from the
September - December	31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January
January - March	31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April
April - August	31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September

If you wish to use your entitlements later than the term after your child turns the relevant age, you can apply closer to the time you wish to start. Provided you still meet the eligibility criteria for that entitlement at that time, you will not lose your ability to apply. Your eligibility code must not be in the 'grace period' when your child first starts with us. If you lose eligibility during a term, you can claim funding until your 'grace period' ends. You must re-validate your claim to funding every three months. You will receive a reminder to do this via your government childcare account.

Please note that The Little Lot Nursery offers places from a child's second birthday.

15 hours childcare for all families in England

All 3 to 4 year olds in England can get up to 570 funded hours per year from the term after your child turns 3 years old through to starting school. This is usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. You can choose to take fewer hours over more weeks, if your childcare provider offers this option.

This is available at participating:

- full day care (e.g nurseries)
- schools

- childminders
- sessional providers (e.g. playgroups)
- Sure Start Children's Centres
- after school clubs

If at any point, you start work after your child has turned the relevant age, meaning you meet the income threshold for 30 hours childcare, you will need to apply. Find more information about the **30 hours childcare for eligible working families in England.**

Combining schemes

Any of the following schemes:

Tax-Free Childcare Age 0 - 11 or 16 if disabled Working families
Get up to £2000 per child Universal Credit childcare Age 0 - 16 Working families
Claim back up to 85% of costs

Can be used with:

30 hours childcare Age 9 months - 4 years Working families
15 hours childcare Age 3 - 4 years All families in England
15 hours early learning Age 2 Families receiving additional forms of support