

Changes to childcare funding

For children aged nine
months to four years

You may now be eligible
for help with the cost
of childcare



Children & Families



Childcare
Choices



Many more families will be eligible for support with the cost of childcare

The government has extended childcare funding to support eligible working parents. This is in addition to the childcare funding schemes already in place for two, three and four-year-olds. The changes mean that parents who work and earn under £100K per year may now be eligible for help with the cost of childcare.

Please note that all funding schemes have criteria, terms and conditions.

For a child aged from nine months to 23 months

15 hours of funded (free) childcare per week, 38 weeks of the year available to eligible working parents.

For a child aged two years

15 hours of funded (free) childcare per week, 38 weeks of the year available to eligible working parents and those from low-income households and in receipt of benefits.

For three and four-year-olds

All children aged three and four are entitled to 15 hours a week of free childcare regardless of family income or residency status.
Children of eligible working parents are entitled to 30 hours a week.

Other help available

Tax-Free Childcare: eligible working parents with children aged 11 or under can get up to £2000 per child each year towards their childcare costs or up to £4000 for children with a disability aged 16 or under.

Universal Credit Childcare: eligible working parents in the UK can claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs for children aged 0-16. Plus eligible parents can access Universal Credit funds upfront, helping those who are starting a job or increasing work hours.

When can I use the childcare funding?

Your child can take up their funded childcare place from the new term after they turn the relevant age for that funding.

When your child turns the relevant age	When they can start their hours with a childcare provider
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January

What to do next

Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check what help you might be eligible for now and in the future and when to apply. An easy-to-use childcare checker has been provided on the home page of this website.

Childcare funding information can also be found at www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk including a searchable directory of Ofsted registered childcare providers such as nurseries and childminders in the London Borough of Ealing.

If you prefer to speak to someone or you need help with finding childcare call Ealing's Family Information Service on **020 8825 5588**, (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or email children@ealing.gov.uk



A quick look at the application process

15/30 hours childcare

Follow the steps on gov.uk to get your childcare code by 31st March for your child to start childcare from 1st April; by 31st August to start from 1st September; or by 31st December to start from 1st January, following your child turning the relevant age.

If you haven't used a childcare provider before or want to change provider - find the right one for you and check if they offer 15/30 hours childcare.

Give your code to your childcare provider.

Tax-Free childcare

Follow the steps on gov.uk to create a Tax-Free childcare account.

If you have more than one eligible child, create an account for each child.

The government top-up is then applied to deposits made for each child, not each household.

Universal Credit childcare

Search **Universal Credit Childcare Costs** to check your eligibility.

Contact your work coach about your options.

Check with your local authority whether you might also be eligible for other forms of government support.

You will need to reconfirm your details every three months on your gov.uk account to continue receiving this childcare funding.