

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, is leaning over a light blue table. She is interacting with two young children. On the left, a girl with dark hair and a yellow headband is holding an orange plastic cup. On the right, a boy is seen from the back, wearing a red and white striped shirt. The woman is placing a blue plastic cup on top of a stack of green and orange cups. Various toys are on the table, including a colorful stacking ring, a wooden block with letters, and a pink toy. The background shows a white wall with some framed pictures.

Brighter  
Futures for  
Children

# Funded early education and childcare

Information about funding  
available for families with  
children aged nine months  
and above.

Funded childcare  
for

TWO S

Funded

30  
HOURS

childcare

## Research has shown that good quality early education can:

- improve children's development, including learning and communication skills
- help them learn to socialise and play with new friends
- give your child the experience of playing new activities including messy play that you may not want to do at home!
- be the first steps towards getting ready for school.

Childcare is also good for families.

It gives you a bit more time to spend with other children you may have, take up a college course, volunteer, go back to work, or just have some time for yourself.





## Funded early education for babies aged nine months +

Up to 15 hours of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) for eligible working families in England with a child at least nine months old, from the term after they turn nine months old.

**From September 2025:** Up to 30 hours of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) for eligible working families in England with a child at least nine months old, from the term after they turn nine months old.



Some providers will allow you to ‘stretch’ the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours per week.



For more information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)



## Targeted two-year-old funding

Some families of two-year-olds may be able to access up to 15 hours of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) from the term after a child's second birthday, if the household:

★ is in receipt of certain benefits, such as Universal Credit

★ has no recourse to public funds (NRPF)



Or

★ The child is looked after by the local authority, has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, gets Disability Living Allowance, has left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangement order.

For more on information on the full eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit: [Reading Directory | 2 Year Old Education & Childcare Funding](#)

## Expanded two-year-old funding

Up to 15 hours of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) for eligible working families in England with a two-year-old, from the term after their second birthday.

**From September 2025** - Up to 30 hours of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) for eligible working families in England with a two-year-old, from the term after their second birthday.

Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours per week.

For more information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

*"My child has come on brilliantly since attending the nursery, her sentences are becoming longer and clearer."*



## Universal 15 hours funding for all three and four-year-olds

All three and four-year-olds in England can get up to 15 hours of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) from the term after their third birthday.

Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours per week.

## 30 hours funding for eligible three and four-year-olds

30 hours a week of early education (over 38 weeks of the year) for eligible working families in England of children aged three and four years old. Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours per week.

For more information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)



# Additional support towards childcare costs

## Tax-Free Childcare for families with children aged 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled)

You can receive up to £2,000 per child per year - that's up to £500 every three months. If you have a disabled child, you can receive up to £4,000 per child - that's up to £1,000 every three months.

For more information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## Universal Credit for families with children under 17

Eligible working parents on Universal Credit are now able to receive even more financial help with their childcare costs for children under 17. This can be up to the maximum amount of £951 per month for one child or up to £1,630 per month for two or more children.

For more information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)



## How do I apply or find out more?

To find out about childcare options in your area or to apply for the funding, please contact:

### Reading's Family Information Service

Find out more at [readingfis.org](https://readingfis.org)

Call **0118 9373 777**, option 2

Email [fis@reading.gov.uk](mailto:fis@reading.gov.uk)





To find out about support and activities you and your child of any age could benefit from, including information about Reading children's centres, visit:

[www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org](http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org)



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