

# **SUPPORT WITH CHILDCARE COSTS**

**QUICK  
GUIDE FOR  
PARENTS &  
CARERS**

# GETTING STARTED

The Government provides varying levels of funded childcare hours and financial support to make childcare more affordable and help parents and carers work, study, or train while ensuring children get high-quality early learning.

## How to get started

- ✓ Check what childcare support you're eligible for
- ✓ Find approved childcare near you
- ✓ Apply online and get your childcare code
- ✓ Keep your details up to date by confirming every 3 months

# FUNDED HOURS

## For all 3 and 4 year olds ▶ [tinyurl.com/swc-all](https://tinyurl.com/swc-all)

- 15 hours a week term time only, or approx. 11 hours a week in year-round provision
- Regardless of families' income

## Working parents ▶ [tinyurl.com/swc-working](https://tinyurl.com/swc-working)

- 30 hours a week of funded childcare term time only, or approximately 22 hours a week in year-round provision
- For children aged 9 months to 4 years
- Available for 38 weeks per year (providers should allow hours to be spread across the year)
- Lone parents must be earning the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage, per week, on average and neither parent can have an adjusted net income over £100,000 for the tax year
- In a two-parent household each parent must earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage, per week, on average and neither parent can have an adjusted net income over £100,000 for the tax year

## Early Learning for 2 year olds (Previously Supported Families Funding)

▶ [tinyurl.com/swc-two](https://tinyurl.com/swc-two)

- 15 hours a week term time only, or approximately 11 hours a week in all-year-round provision, if your family receives certain benefits
- You should not be asked to pay a registration fee to access these hours

# HELP WITH COSTS

## Universal Credit ▶ [tinyurl.com/swc-uc](https://tinyurl.com/swc-uc)

- You can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs, but childcare providers usually require payment upfront
- Monthly limits apply
- Cannot be used at the same time as Tax-Free Childcare
- Be aware of things you may be asked to pay for such as meals, nappies, additional hours or activities. If you do not want to pay for these extras, your chosen provider should agree to an alternative arrangement. You can still get the free childcare if you do not pay for any extra costs

## Tax-free childcare ▶ [tinyurl.com/swc-taxfree](https://tinyurl.com/swc-taxfree)

- For every £8 you pay, the government adds £2
- Up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 if the child is disabled
- Use with registered childcare providers
- The scheme is for parents of children up until the age of 12

## LOCAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Find local childminders, nurseries and preschools by visiting our easy-to-use directory:

[www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/find/childcare](http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/find/childcare)



## Important things to know

- Childcare must be approved/registered
- Eligibility must be reconfirmed regularly
- Not all providers offer all funded hours – check providers fee policy for more details

# FIND OUT MORE AT:

▶ **[www.beststartinlife.gov.uk](http://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk)**

The UK Government's central hub for information and resources from pregnancy through to starting primary/first school.

▶ **[www.gov.uk/get-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/get-childcare)**

A simple, step-by-step guide to finding out what funding you're eligible for, finding childcare providers and what to do when your child reaches school age.