

Help with childcare costs:

You can also refer to www.direct.gov.uk for information on and how to apply for:

Free education and childcare for 2-year-olds - Your 2-year-old can get free early education and childcare if you live in England and get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax
- tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

15 and 30 hours free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds - You can get it from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. All children in England get 570 free hours per year. It's usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year, but you can choose to take fewer hours over more weeks, for example.

You can usually get **30 hours free childcare** if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work - or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week - this is £125.28 if you're over 25

This earnings limit does not apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You're not eligible if:

- your child does not usually live with you
- the child is your foster child
- either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000

- you're from outside the EEA and your UK residence card says you cannot access public funds

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

Working Tax credit - You could get Working Tax Credit if either of the following apply:

- you're aged from 16 to 24 and have a child or a qualifying disability
- you're 25 or over, with or without children

You must:

- work a certain number of hours a week
- get paid for the work you do (or expect to)
- have an income below a certain level

The basic amount of Working Tax Credit is up to £1,960 a year - you could get more (or less) depending on your circumstances and income.

Tax-Free Childcare - You can get up to £500 every 3 months (£2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. If you get Tax-Free Childcare, the government will pay £2 for every £8 you pay your childcare provider via an online account.

Childcare vouchers - Ask your employer if they offer a childcare voucher scheme.

How much you can take depends on the amount you earn and when you join the scheme.

If you're in receipt of **Universal Credit** - You may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you're eligible.

For students: there are a variety of different schemes available. For current schemes take a look on www.direct.gov.uk