

# Early Education Funding – Working Parents

Working parents who meet the relevant eligibility criteria may be able to claim government funded childcare for children aged 9 months+ up until they start school (Reception Class).

Currently, eligible working parents can apply for 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare, depending on the age of the child.

Children aged 9 months to 2 years could be eligible to 15 hours per week childcare, whereas children aged 3 & 4 could be eligible for up to 30 hours per week. **N.B.** Children need to have turned 9 months on or before the termly deadlines of **31 August, 31 December or 31 March** to be eligible for the respective terms. For example, for a child to start a 9 month place in **September**, they need to have been born before **31<sup>st</sup> November** the previous year.

From **September 2025**, the number of entitlement hours changes to 30 hours per weeks for all eligible children from 9+ months to 4 years.

Childcare must be taken up with an approved childcare provider.

To be eligible, each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible.

All eligibility codes need to be applied for or re-verified via the [Childcare Choices](#) website by the following deadline dates in order to be eligible for the relevant term:

- **Autumn Term** – deadline **31 August** to be eligible for a funded place in the term beginning on or after **1 September**
- **Spring Term** – deadline **31 December** to be eligible for a funded place in the term beginning on or after **1 January**
- **Summer Term** - deadline **31 March** to be eligible for a funded place in the term beginning on or after **1 April**

**Please note:** The actual local authority terms don't always start on the first of September, January or April. Please visit [Together for Children website](#) for the Sunderland school term dates.

There is more information on what childcare support is available to parents on the [Childcare Choices website](#), where you can explore the early education entitlements and other government help towards childcare costs.

Parents who are already using Tax Free Childcare will be able to apply for an eligibility funding code for this childcare offer when their next reverification window opens.

Together for Children cannot assist with applications however we can offer general advice and guidance if necessary. Please contact the Families Information Service on 0191 520 5553.

For more specific help regarding the working parent entitlements, please contact the HMRC Helpline on 0300 1234 097.