Guide to the Free Entitlement for Social Workers

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| 2 Year Olds  | 3 and 4 year olds Universal  | 3 and 4 year olds Extended hours for working families (30 hours )  |
| Targeted support for families that meeting the following criteria worth up to 15 hours per week of free childcare. Child must be 2 by 1st September, 1st January or 1st April to receive the funding in the following term. The parent must be in receipt of one of the following: * 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)

A child can also get 2 year old funding if * they’re looked after by a local council
* they have a current statement of [special education needs (SEN)](https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* they get [Disability Living Allowance](https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children)
* they’ve left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order
 | Universal Support for **all** children from 1st September, 1st January or 1st April following their 3rd birthday. This entitlement gives up to 15 hours per week of free childcare. term time only (38 weeks)Can be stretched over more weeks if required (see overleaf) No need to apply to the council for these hours Available at any Ofsted registered Early Years Provider * Nursery
* Pre – school
* Childminder
* Nursery Class
* Nursery School

Each provider manages their own admissions so to take up a place contact the chosen provider directly. A list of providers can be found on the WBC website or by contacting the family information service through WBC customer services.  | Targeted support for working families worth an additional 15 hours per week who meet the following criteriaChild must be 3 and parents/carers must have received a 30 hour code (see below) by 1st September, 1st January or 1st April to receive funding in the following term. * Parents must both be working and earning 16 X national minimum wage per week (£7900 per year)
* Neither parent can earn more than £100,000 per year
* Single parents living on their own need to meet the income criteria themselves.
* Foster parents can apply for their own children as long as they meet the income criteria (for applying for foster children see overleaf)

Application through HMRC via [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) this generates a code which needs to be given to the childcare provider. **Codes must be reconfirmed every 3 months via HMRC.**  |
| 2 Year Olds  | What Parents/carers can be charged for  | Foster carers and 30 hours  |
| 2 year olds will only become eligible at the start of the funding period after their 2nd birthday. Funding periods start on 1st January, 1st April and 1st September. The person with parental responsibly for the child needs to apply to the council in order to receive this entitlement. The application form can be found at the link below <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-pre-schools-and-nurseries/apply-for-free-entitlement-for-2-year-olds-online/> If they are successful Parents/carers (or social worker if they applied) will receive a letter which states this. They will also receive a list of all settings that take two year old funding. The Family information service (part of WBC customer services) can assist parents finding a place near to them.In order to offer 2 year old funding providers must be Ofsted rated good or outstanding. If a parent/carer is struggling to find a placement social works can contact the early years team for help earlyyears@wokngham.gov.uk  |  For all free entitlement funding that is paid to the provider covers the education and care for the children for the hours requested (up to 30 per week if eligible) It does not cover consumables such as nappy/wipes, food, snacks and any extracurricular activities such as those provided by an outside teacher coming in. Settings often will ask parents/carers to pay for these however they must be **optional** and not a condition of having a space at the setting. In many settings parents/carers will also be able to pay for addition hours on top of the 15 or 30 they are eligible for. It is up to each setting how they offer the funded hours and which hours are free. Parents/carers should be told clearly what charges, if there are any, are going to be and what they are actually paying for. They should also be told about a funded only offer which has no charges. (some settings limit the number of funded only spaces they have available)  | Foster carers are now able to claim the additional hours for foster children in their care as long as both adults in the household work and receive income from outside of fostering (this can be any income from work it does not have to meet the £7900 threshold) . It also must be agreed by the child’s social worker that it is in the best interests of the child to attend the setting for the additional hours. The application process for the additional hours for foster carers caring for foster children is different to that for their own children. It is managed by WBC’s early years team rather than HMRC. To start the process the social worker should request an application form from earlyyears@wokingham.gov.uk. There will be a part for the foster carer to complete and also a part for the social worker to compete. If successful a code will be generated and given to the foster carer to give to the chosen early year’s provider. **This code will need to be reconfirmed every three months through the early years team.**  |

All of the free entitlements can be stretched over the whole year rather than term time only if Parents/carers wish. Each of the entitlements is worth 15 hours over 38 weeks which is 570 hours in total over the year. This can be stretched over more than 38 weeks if the number of hour per week is reduced. (E.g. 11.4 hours per week over 50 weeks)

**Early Years Pupil Premium**

3 and 4 year old funded children may also entitled to early years pupil premium. This is an additional payment of 53p per universal funded hour (Up to maximum of 15 per week 15) paid directly to the earl years setting and is meant to be used by the setting to enhance their provision for the child. It is up to the setting to decide how this funding is spent. It should not normally be used to pay for additional sessions for the child. Eligibility is different to 2 year old funding with only about half of those that had two year old funding eligible for EYPP. Full eligibility details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

Children currently looked after by the local authority or have left care though and adoption or care order are also entitled to EYPP.

In both cases the parent/carers/social worker should speak to the early year’s provider about applying for this additional funding.