



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years Education and Childcare Eligibility and Funding Sources

Information for professionals



Sources of Early Years Funding

Working Parent Entitlement

A child of working parents is entitled to funded early years provision if the child has attained the relevant age, is under compulsory school age and the child's parent(s) meets the eligibility criteria. They can apply for the Working Parents Entitlement funded childcare, via the Childcare Choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk, 16 weeks before their child is eligible to receive funding.

When child turns the relevant age (9 months, 2, 3 or 4 years)	When they can get their hours from
1 st January and 31 st March	Term starting on or after 1 April
1 st April and 31 st August	Term starting on or after 1 September
1 st September and 31 st December	Term starting on or after 1 January

Funding for Disadvantaged 2-year-olds

A 2-year-old can get free childcare if you live in England and their parent(s) get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments*
- Child tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

2-year-olds can also get free childcare if they:

- Are looked after by a local authority or have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order
- Have a statement of [special education needs \(SEN\)](#) or an education, health and care plan (EHCP)
- Get [Disability Living Allowance](#)
- If a family has "No Recourse to Public Funds" NRPF

Free Early Education & Childcare for 3 & 4 year olds

15 Hours entitlement

Every 3 & 4 year old child is entitled to receive 15 hours of funded nursery education from the term after their 3rd birthday and this will remain in place until the start of their reception year at school or the term after their fifth birthday if they officially defer their entry into school. Parents do not need a code to access this funding.

Each child accessing the 15 hours of childcare is entitled to a total of 570 hours funded education during a year, either termly (15 hours a week over 38 weeks) or stretched over the full year (e.g. 11.4 hours a week over 50 weeks).



30 Hours entitlement

To be eligible for the additional hours, the parent and their partner, if they have one, must be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the National Living Wage, live in England, and expect to have an individual income of less than £100,000 a year.

Each child accessing the 30 hours of childcare is entitled to a total of 1,140 hours funded education during a year, either termly (30 hours a week over 38 weeks) or stretched over the full year (e.g. 22.8 hours a week over 50 weeks).

Parents must apply for a Working Parent Entitlement code to access 30 hour funding by creating an account on:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



They can then visit: www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk to find a list of childcare in their area. Their chosen provider will be able to confirm if they have availability and if they offer 30 hour funded places.

Accessing Early Education & Childcare for 2, 3 & 4 year olds in England and Wales

Gloucestershire County Council will only consider funding an Early Years placement for an English child in a Welsh setting if we are satisfied that there is no other provision in England to meet an individual's needs. This should be discussed with the Early Years Service.

A 3&4 year old from Wales can access the first 15 hours of early years education and childcare entitlement at an English setting but not the extended 30 hours.

A family from Wales wanting their 2 year old to access a placement in an English setting must apply to Gloucestershire County Council's Nursery Funding Team to confirm their eligibility.



Using funding flexibly

For some children, attending their full entitlement maybe overwhelming.

In discussion with the Gloucestershire's Early Years Service it may be possible to claim for the child's full funded hours, even if the child attends for less hours, for a short period to enable the setting to enhance staff ratio or to provide other support to help the child to settle and for the provider to have a clear understanding of the child's needs. If after an agreed period further support is required the Early Years Team will support the provider to explore this.

Disability Access Fund

In April 2017 the government introduced new funding for Early Years providers, the Disability Access Fund (DAF), to support three and four-year old children with disabilities or special educational needs. The DAF aids access to Early Years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their provision. From April 2024, 2-year-olds are now eligible to receive this funding. From September 2024 children from 9 months old will be eligible to receive this funding too.



The funds cannot be used for 1:1 support.

Providers receive £910.00 per eligible child, per financial year, and DAF can only be claimed by one childcare provider per year. Children will be eligible for the DAF if they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and have claimed any part of the funded entitlement at a childcare provider in Gloucestershire. 4-year-olds in primary and infant school reception classes are NOT eligible for DAF funding.

Parents must nominate the childcare provider they want to receive the additional funding.

To make a claim, please send a copy of the child's Disability Living Allowance notice to : eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Early Years Pupil Premium

Children will be eligible if they are receiving early education funded hours in any provider, and their parents are in receipt of 1 or more of the following benefits, which are the benefits used to access eligibility for free school meals:

- ⇒ Income Support
- ⇒ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ⇒ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ⇒ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ⇒ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ⇒ Child Tax Credit (provided they're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ⇒ Working Tax Credits run-on-paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- ⇒ Universal Credit — your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Or if they have been:

- ⇒ Looked after by the local authority for at least 1 day
- ⇒ Have been adopted from care
- ⇒ Have left care through special guardianship
- ⇒ Subject to a child arrangement order setting out with whom the child lives (formerly known as residence orders)

Early Years Deprivation Payment

Deprivation is a supplement payment made to early years providers for eligible children.

The eligibility criteria is based on the number of funded hours that a child attends at an early years provider and the score allocated to that child's postcode using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). A proportion of the annual budget is paid at the end of each term to providers based on the postcode scores.

Early Years SEN Inclusion Funding

Gloucestershire County Council provides inclusion funding to early years settings to help them to safely include and support individual children with emerging Special Education Needs and Disabilities where it has been assessed that additional resources are required to achieve positive outcomes for the child. The inclusion funding is a contribution to the resources needed to support the child and is not expected to cover all costs in all cases.

Please contact the Early Years Service for more information about this if needed.

 eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a Government scheme to help working families with their childcare costs. Parents will be able to open online childcare accounts to pay their registered childcare providers directly. For every £8 parents pay in to these accounts, the Government will add £2; the total amount in the account can only be spent on childcare. Parents can receive up to £2,000 in Government support per child, per year, or £4,000 for disabled children. Providers need to have signed up for Tax Free Childcare to be able to receive payments from any parents via the scheme.

Contacts Details

For further help and advice please contact:

Early Years Advice Line — every Monday and Wednesday 1-5pm
(Wednesdays only during school holidays)

 eysadviceline@gloucestershire.gov.uk

 01452 425959

Early Years Funding Team — 9-5pm

 eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk

 01452 328668

