



**Gloucestershire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

## Information for Parents

**Help with childcare costs  
for children aged  
9 months – 4 years**

- A child of working parents could be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare once they reach 9 months of age, is under compulsory school age and the child's parent(s) meets the eligibility criteria. Parent(s) can apply for the Working Parents Entitlement funded childcare, via the Best Start in Life website, from when your child is 23 weeks old. You can access the working parent offer:

When your child turns 9 months between .....	You can access the working parent entitlement from the ...
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April (Summer term)
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September (Autumn term)
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January (Spring term)

- You must ensure that you apply for your code before the following termly deadline dates:
  - **31st December - to claim funding in the Spring term.**
  - **31st March - to claim funding in the Summer term.**
  - **31st August - to claim funding in the Autumn term.**
- If you miss the deadline date, Gloucestershire County Council cannot back date your eligibility and your funded hours entitlement will not start until the following term. In these circumstances, you will have to pay your Early Years provider for the hours your child attends.
- You must renew your code to ensure it remains valid, before the "valid to" date expires. This is generally every 3 months.
- HMRC will send a reminder via email and/or text when you need to renew your code. Please check your junk/spam folder if you do not receive a reminder.
- Government funding does not cover the cost of meals, nappies, additional hours and additional activities, such as trips. However, these costs must be voluntary charges for parents. Speak to your provider about alternative options they may have.
- Once you receive your eligibility code you must ensure that you give your code to your childcare provider to receive your funded entitlement.

- Eligibility codes come with a grace period. This allows for the funding to continue for a limited period of time, if you cease to meet the eligibility criteria, i.e., if you lose your job.
- To apply for an eligibility code for a foster child, the social worker and foster parents must apply by completing an application form that can be found at: <http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-service/information-for-parents/help-with-childcare-costs/working-parent-entitlement-for-foster-children/>
- You do not have to use all of your funded hour's entitlement and can split your funded hours between a maximum of 2 providers per day.
- **30 hrs of funding** = up to 1,140 hours per year. This can be used in various ways and your provider will confirm what arrangements they offer. You could access 30 hours per week for 38 weeks or 22.8 hours per week stretched over 50 weeks. Please be aware that not all childcare providers will be able to offer your full entitlement, please discuss this further with your provider.
- Tax free childcare is a different scheme to the Working Parent Entitlement funding but it can be used alongside this funding. You must apply and renew the 2 schemes separately to ensure they remain eligible.
- More details and how to apply/renew a code, can be found at:  
<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-support-available>

#### Options available for parent(s) who are not eligible for the working parent entitlement code

- No funding options available for children under 2 years old
- The term after your child turns 2 they could be entitled to **15 hrs of funded childcare**, up to 570 hours per year, if you are receiving some additional forms of support. Applications for this are made via the Gloucestershire Citizen Portal: <https://emsonline.goucestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en>
- Parent(s) with a 2 year old and have no recourse to public funds, please visit <https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-service/information-for-parents/help-with-childcare-costs/2-year-old-funding-disadvantaged-a2yo-and-non-working-parents/> for an application form.
- **Universal Hours**, the term after your child turns 3, and all 4 year olds, are entitled to receive 15 hours per week – **no code is needed to access this universal offer.**

## CONTACT DETAILS



UK Government

Best Start in Life helpline: 0300 123 4097

Best Start in Life: [www.beststartinlife.gov.uk](http://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk)



Early Years Service, Nursery Funding Team:  
[Eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:eyfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk)