

# FEEE funded childcare

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-years-and-childcare/free-early-education-and-childcare/free-childcare-places>

## Free childcare places

Free childcare is also called FEEE (Free Early Educational Entitlement).

All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to 570 hours of FEEE. This is usually taken as a maximum of 15 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year, in line with Leicestershire's school term dates, but can be taken as fewer hours over more weeks. Some **2 year olds are also eligible**.

## When your child is eligible

You can start claiming your Free Early Educational Entitlement (FEEE) the term after your child turns 3 (or the term after your child turns 2 if they are eligible). The date you can claim will depend on when their birthday is.

Child's birthday:	When you can claim:
1 January to 31 March	the start of the summer term following their third birthday, or if eligible, the term after their second birthday
1 April to 31 August	the start of the autumn term following their third birthday, or if eligible, the term after their second birthday
1 September to 31 December	the start of the spring term following their third birthday, or if eligible, the term after their second birthday

### Example

Your child was born on 15 February 2013. They'll become eligible for the FEEE from the start of the summer term 2016.

Check if your child is eligible  or telephone the Eligibility Helpline 0116 305 6208.

### Contact details

 Childcare Eligibility Helpline

 0116 305 6208

 [childcare@leics.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@leics.gov.uk)

## 30 hours free childcare - check if you're eligible

From April 2017 Leicestershire will be trialling an increase of free childcare to 30 hours per week (for up to 38 weeks per year, a total of 1140 hours).

This increase will only be available to working families who meet the following criteria:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family);
- Both parents are working, includes circumstances where;
  - One or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on parental, adoption, maternity or paternity leave;
  - One or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay;
  - One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring; or
  - One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.
- Each parent has a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage; Parents do not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours per week, but rather their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at national minimum wage (£111.20) or national living wage £120.00), and;
- Neither parent has an income of more than £100,000 per year.

The definition of 'working' will include employed and self-employed persons and parents on zero hours contracts who meet the criteria. Many parents have irregular working patterns and the government have designed the extended entitlement to be flexible enough to accommodate these.

Parents who are studying, and grandparents or other family members with parental responsibility for a child aged 3 or 4, will be eligible for the extended entitlement if they meet the above criteria.

HM Government **Childcare Choices**

**CAN I GET HELP WITH MY CHILDCARE COSTS?**

The government is introducing new ways to help parents with childcare costs. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

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**Childcare providers**  
What you need to know

### Help paying for childcare

Look through all the help on offer, or tell us a bit about you, so we can find the offers that might be best.

You are:  Do you live with a partner?

#### 15 hours free childcare

**Age 2**

- For families in England, receiving some forms of support
- With 2-year-old children
- 15 hours of free childcare or early education a week

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#### 15 hours free childcare

**Age 3 & 4**

- For all families in England
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
- 15 hours of free childcare or early education a week

Find out more about similar schemes in Scotland, Wales, Cymru, and Northern Ireland.

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#### 30 hours free childcare **NEW! COMING SOON**

**Age 3 & 4**

- For working families in England
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
- An extra 15 hours a week of free childcare - so 30 in all

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### Tax-Free Childcare **NEW! COMING SOON**

**Age 0-11**  
or 16 if disabled

- For working families, including the self-employed, in the UK
- With children under 12 (or under 17 if disabled)
- For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child

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### Tax credits for childcare

**Age 0-15**  
or 16 if disabled

- For working families, in the UK
- With children under 16 (or under 17 if disabled)
- 70% of childcare costs, up to a cap

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### Universal Credit for childcare

**Age 0-15**

- For working families claiming Universal Credit, in England, Scotland and Wales
- With children under 16
- 85% of eligible childcare costs, up to a cap

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### Childcare vouchers

**Age 0-15**  
or 16 if disabled

- For working families, in the UK
- With children under 16 (or under 17 if disabled)
- Up to £933 a year in tax and National Insurance savings

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### Support while you study

- Weekly payments from Care to Learn if you're at school or sixth-form college
- Help through your college if you're in further education
- A weekly grant if you're in full-time higher education

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