Eligibility

If a family is in receipt of certain benefits (listed below), they may be able to get up to **15 hours over 38 weeks a year or 12 hours over 48 weeks a year (stretched) free childcare for their two-year-old**.

A child is entitled to a funded place if the family is in receipt of:

* Income Support
* income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
* income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
* Universal Credit, and the household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
* Child Tax Credits, and the 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 when they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

2-year-olds can also get a place if:

* they’re looked after by a local council;
* they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education health and care plan;
* they get Disability Living Allowance; or
* they’ve left care under a special guardianship order, adoption order, child arrangements order or residence order.

**If the family are a non-UK citizen who cannot claim benefits**

If their immigration status says they have ‘no recourse to public funds’, they may still get free childcare for your 2-year-old. They must live in England and their household income must be no more than:

* £26,500 for families outside of London with one child
* £34,500 for families within London with one child
* £30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children
* £38,600 for families within London with two or more children

They cannot have more than £16,000 in savings or investments.

**Working Parents Entitlement for 2 year olds (new funding)**

Starting on 2 January, if you are an eligible working parent, you can apply for 15 hours of childcare for your 2-year-old.

You must apply for the summer term before 31 March. The best time to apply is mid-January to the end of February, just in case you need to provide extra information to help your application.

If you apply more than 3 months before the start of the new term, you will need to reconfirm your details before the end of the month before the start of the new term. This is to ensure you are still eligible.

**Eligibility**

To qualify for a childcare code you must meet the following criteria. Each parent must :

* earn at least £8,600 a year
* earn under £100,000 [adjusted net income a year](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adjusted-net-income)
* work the equivalent of 16 hours a week national minimum/living wage.

[Visit Childcare Choices](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/) for more information, to sign up for updates and try out the handy eligibility checker to discover how you can save money on your childcare.

[Apply for free childcare if you're working](https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working).

30 Hours of Free Childcare Eligibility



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| [**30 Hours of Free Childcare Home**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare) |
| [**Eligibility Checker**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/30-hours-of-free-childcare-eligibility) | [**Fostering Eligibility**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/fostering-eligibility) | [**Monthly Updates**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/monthly-updates) |
| [**District Information**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/seminars) | [**Guidance Documents**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/guidance-documents) | [**Promotional Materials**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/promotional-materials) |
| [**Q and A**](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/30-hours-of-free-childcare/q-and-a) |

Our 30 Hours of Free Childcare Interim Checker is now **live.**

You can access the checker via the Kelsi website on the [Free Early Education for 3 to 4 year olds page](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/sufficiency-and-sustainability/free-early-education/early-years-free-entitlement).

To check a family’s 11 digit code and eligibility for 30 Hours of Free Childcare, providers must submit a check to Management Information so they can validate the codes. To do this you will need the parents name, National Insurance number, child’s date of birth and the 11 digit 30 hour code. You will also need your setting’s Ofsted number, URN and email address.

When you click the link you will be taken to an online form, similar to the FF2 online application form. You will need to enter your setting’s and the parent’s details onto this form. There is a consent box which must be ticked before a check can be submitted. Parents must sign the consent box on the **Parental Declaration** before you can submit a check. If you submit a check without obtaining a parent’s consent, you will be in breach of Data Protection protocols.

Once a check has been submitted, you will receive an on screen response thanking and informing you it has been sent to Management Information. It is at this point you can print a copy of the form for your records if you wish to do so. You will also receive an email confirming submission.

Management Information will then complete a check and will email you with either an **‘Eligible’** result or a **‘Not Found’** result.

The ‘Eligible’ email will provide you with the start date, end date and grace period end date.

The ‘Not Found’ email will contain information as to why the check has not produced an eligible result.

Once you have received an eligible result back, you can secure a place for the child in your setting.

If you have any problems please contact please contact eyfe@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 42 28 28.