

Additional Information

Can Children Access Funding in More Than One Setting?

Children can access childcare from more than one setting, provided these settings agree to this arrangement and the child does not attend more than two settings on the same day.

If a child is accessing 30 hours of funded childcare, it must be agreed which setting will claim 'universal funding' (the core hours that every child is entitled to) and which will claim the extended entitlement (for working families).

What Happens if a Child is Absent?

Settings can usually continue to claim funding if a child has short-term absences due to illnesses, holidays or family emergencies, and also if a child arrives late or leaves early. However, local authorities often impose a limit as to how much time a child can take off each term before funding is reclaimed.

A child will not usually be offered alternative childcare sessions to make up for when they have been absent.

What Happens If a Childcare Setting Is Closed?

If a setting is closed due to illness, a planned holiday or a family emergency, the provider will not usually be entitled to claim funding for that period. They may be able to offer the childcare at an alternative time/date if this is mutually agreed upon but if this is not possible, they will adjust the funding claim for that term accordingly.

Do Parents/Carers Need to Give Notice?

Some childcare providers will ask for notice if a child is to leave the setting. Details of this will be in their funding policies and contractual agreement.

Do All Childcare Providers Have to Accept Early Years Funding?

No. Providers can make their own decisions about whether or not to offer early years funding as a payment method. They are under no obligation to provide funded childcare places for any or all age groups and have the right to withdraw from accepting funding as a payment method should it not work for their setting.

Is There Any Other Support Available for Children?

- 'Early Years Pupil Premium' (EYPP): This is a small amount added to the hourly rate for a child's core-funded hours. Parents/carers on certain benefits or with 'Looked After Children' may be eligible for this.
- 'Disability Access Funding' (DAF): This is paid to childcare settings if families claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA). This money will be used to fund additional resources, equipment, experiences and/or training that will directly impact the child to whom it is allocated.
- 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities' (SEND): Childcare settings will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate children with SEND and be aware of their duties about the SEND Code of Practice 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

Any personal information shared with childcare settings will be strictly confidential and must be stored according to GDPR guidelines.

Where Else Can Parents/Carers Go for Information about Funding?

Each provider will have their policies and procedures for funding, which should be shared with parents/carers before contracts are signed.

There is more information about the childcare support available to parents on the Childcare Choices website.

Early Years Funding: Parent Information

This handy leaflet explains how early years funding works and how parents/carers can access their child's entitlement.



Government-funded places are designed to bridge socioeconomic gaps in England and encourage parents and carers into the workplace. All childcare settings providing funded places must follow strict guidelines to claim payments, ensuring their compliance with government regulations and any additional terms and conditions set by their local authority.

When Are Children Entitled to Funding?

Subject to eligibility, each child will be entitled to funded childcare from the term after they reach the required age (e.g. 9 months, 2 years, 3 years).

Child's Birthday	Funded Hours From:	When to Apply:
1 st September – 31 st December	Term starting on or after 1 st January	15 th October – 30 th November
1 st January – 31 st March	Term starting on or after 1 st April	15 th January – 28 th February
1 st April – 31 st August	Term starting on or after 1 st September	15 th June – 31 st July

Parents/carers should check the Childcare Choices website for exact dates when funding for 9-month-olds can begin.

How Many Hours of Funding Will Children Get?

Eligible families are entitled to either 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare per week, for 38 weeks per year. Some providers may allow families to 'stretch' this funding over the weeks they are open throughout the year, accessing fewer hours per week. The total number of funded hours accessed cannot exceed termly allowances and is capped at 570/1140 hours per year.

More details about eligibility and funded hours available can be found on the Childcare Choices website.

How Do Parents/Carers Apply for a Funded Place?

Parents/carers who wish to claim funding for working entitlements or due to receiving certain benefits will need to register for an eligibility code on the government website. Once they have a code, they can look for a registered childcare provider. Lists of registered providers offering local childcare places can usually be found online, in places such as the local authority's website.

If parents/carers wish to stretch their annual funding allowance and use fewer hours per week, they should discuss whether this is possible with their childcare provider before officially applying for a place.

Parents/carers must reconfirm their child's eligibility before the date when their current code becomes invalid. They will be sent a reminder every three months to do this. Failure to do so could result in the loss of childcare funding.



When Can Funding Be Used?

Funded sessions are limited to 10 hours per day and 15/30 hours per week. Funding cannot be used before 6 am or after 8 pm. Some settings may provide funded places during school term times only and others may require parents/carers to 'stretch' the child's hours over the number of weeks they open per year.

Settings can choose their opening hours/days, how many weeks they open per year and when they close for holidays. Each childcare provider will set out which days and times funding can be used as payment for their services. Funded sessions may not be available every day of the week and individual session times will vary between providers. Parents/carers can often access additional privately paid childcare at other times, with fees set at the provider's rates.

Childcare providers should also be able to give parents/carers further information about opening hours, holiday closures, funded sessions, etc.