



Age 2 - 15 hours free entitlement

- This is for families in England, with a two year old who are in receipt of certain benefits.
- If eligible the child would be entitled to 570 hours annually which equates to 3 hours per day term time (although this can be stretched over more weeks if agreed with the family and childcare provider).
- The hours are awarded the term after the child's second birthday. (Grid below explains further)

Eligibility criteria

In order to apply, the family MUST be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit, provided the annual gross income is no more than £ 16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- If the family are in receipt of the following criteria below, they need to provide supporting evidence:
 - Universal credit
 - If the child is looked after by the Local Authority
 - If the child has a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan
 - If the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
 - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - If the child has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order

Applying for a place

Parents can apply via www.cumbria.gov.uk/childcare or by contacting CFIS **03457 125 737** for an application form.

Age 3 and 4 - 15 hours free entitlement

- This is for all families in England, with three and four year old children.
- Each three and four year old is entitled to 570 hours annually which equates to 3 hours per day (term time although this can be stretched over more weeks if agreed with the family and childcare provider).
- The hours are awarded the term after the child's third birthday. (Grid below explains further).

Applying for a place

To apply for a nursery attached to a school parents need to ring the School Admissions Team on **01228 221582** or visit **www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lss/nursery/nursery15-16.asp**

To apply to a private, voluntary or independent provider parents need to ask them directly for an application form.

Age 3 and 4 - 30 hours free entitlement

- For working families in England with 3 and 4-year-old children
- If eligible the child would be entitled to 1140 hours annually which equates to 30 hours per week (term time although this can be stretched over more weeks if agreed with the family and childcare provider).
- The hours are awarded the term after the child's third birthday. (Grid below explains further)

Eligibility Criteria

Parents of three and four year olds will need to meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours free childcare:

- They earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months.
- This equates to £ 120 a week (or £ 6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £ 112.80 a week (or £ 5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old.
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months
- If a non-EEA national. the parent must have recourse to public funds

*Parents do not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week, but rather their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, from April 2017 the NMW is £ 7.50 per hour for 25 year olds and over, therefore minimum income would be £ 120 a week.

National minimum wage rate from April 2017

Year	25 and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
2017	£ 7.50	£ 7.05	£ 5.60	£ 4.05	£ 3.50

Who will not qualify?

A parent will not meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £ 100,000
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds)

Applying for a place

Parents can apply at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Awarding of free entitlement hours

Free entitlement hours are always awarded the term after their birthday. This applies for 2 year old places and three and four year old places for both 15 and 30 hours.

If your child's birthday falls between	Your child will become eligible for a free place from
1 January and 31 March	The start of the Summer Term (April)
1 April and 31 August	The start of the Autumn Term (September)
1 September and 31 December	The start of the Spring Term (January)

Tax Free Childcare

0 - 11 year olds

- For working families, including the self-employed, in the UK, with children under 12 (or under 17 if disabled)
- For every £8 paid in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year - that's up to £500 every three months
- More information can be sought at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Applying

Parents of children born on or after 1st April 2013, and parents of disabled children, can apply now via www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Tax Credits for Childcare

0 - 15 year olds, 16 if disabled

- For working families, in the UK, with children under 16 (or under 17 if disabled)
- The family Could receive up to 70% of childcare costs, up to a cap
- More information can be sought at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Applying

Parents need to answer a few questions before they can order a tax credits claim form. This can be done at the following webpage www.gov.uk/claim-tax-credits/how-to-claim?utm_source=childcarechoices&utm_medium=microsite

Universal Credits for Childcare

0 - 15 year olds

- For working families claiming Universal Credit, in England, Scotland and Wales with children under 16
- The family Could receive up to 85% of eligible childcare costs, up to a cap
- More information can be sought at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Applying

You can apply for Universal Credits online at the following site www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit

Childcare Vouchers

0 - 15 year olds, 16 if disabled

- For working families, in the UK with children under 16 (or under 17 if disabled)
- The family Could receive up to £933 a year in tax and National Insurance savings
- More information can be sought at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/ or www.gov.uk/childcare-vouchers-better-off-calculator

Applying

Parents would need to apply through the childcare voucher provider their employer used.

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
- More information can be sought at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Parents can find out which 'offers' are available to them and get support choosing which works best for their family by using the government childcare calculator which can be found here: www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator

Further information regarding all matters childcare and the providers available in Cumbria can be sought through Cumbria County Council's Children Family Information Service Tel: **03457 125 737** Email: childrens.information@cumbria.gov.uk

