



Free Early Education

At Enchanted Day Nursery, we offer places for 9-23 month, two, three and four-year free early education. We offer the free hour's eligible, based on sessions we provide at the setting. The hours we offer the free funding over falls between 08:00 to 18:00. We will not offer places to families until the child's eligibility has been checked and we have received confirmation. This will be done by:

- Checking the child's age through their birth certificate
- Requesting the reference eligibility code from the parent/carer
- Completion of a parent declaration form

Eligibility – working parents

If you live and work in England you may be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare support from the term after your child turns 9 months old, until they start school.

You can usually get funded childcare for working parents if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work or starting a new job
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

The amount of funded childcare you can get depends on:

- your child's age and circumstances
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your immigration status

If you are not eligible for the working parent offer you will still receive the 15 hour entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds from the term after your child turns 3 until they start school, irrespective of your income level, benefit status, or family circumstances.

If you or your child receive some additional forms of support, you may be eligible for 15 hours early learning for 2 year olds under a separate scheme and you should speak to your local council and/or provider in the first instance. If you are eligible, you should still apply for the working parent entitlement, but you will receive 15 hours from each scheme (up to a maximum of 30 hours in total).

Two-year supported families free early education

Your 2-year-old can get funded early learning if you live in England and get any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Your benefits will not be affected if you take up the 15 hours early learning offer.

2-year-olds can also get funded childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

No income thresholds apply.

The government offers 15 hours free early education, for families receiving some additional forms of government support, from the term after they turn two. You will keep this funding all the way through until your child turns three, where they will transfer over to the universal 15 hour funding or you can apply for the working parent entitlement funding to receive 30 hours.

Two-year working family entitlement

If you and your partner (if you have one) are working, you may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours under the working parent entitlement.

If you're a working parent and you're not eligible for 15 hours early learning for families receiving additional forms of support, you may still be eligible for 30 hours under the working parent entitlement.

Three/four-year free early education

All 3 and 4-year-olds who live in England are entitled to this offer irrespective of income levels, benefit status, or family circumstances.

Three/four year 30 hours free childcare

The term after your child turns three, some parents may be eligible to combine the working parent entitlement with the universal 15 hours, to make up 30 hours of childcare.

We also offer all of the above funding 'stretched' over 52 weeks, equating to 10.97/21.94 hours free early education per week.

You can start using your entitlements from the term after your child turns the relevant age to use that entitlement.

When your child turns the relevant age	When they can get their hours from
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January

You are only able to claim the entitlements from the term after they become the relevant age because this gives local authorities and childcare providers enough time to prepare. If you're not working when your child turns the relevant age for the working parent entitlement, you may have to wait until the term after you start working to be eligible.

When do I need to apply?

You will be able to take up your free hours from the *term after* you meet all the eligibility criteria. These terms begin on 1 January, 1 April and 1 September. You need to apply on Gov.uk before the deadline to receive a code for the working parent entitlement and two year supported family entitlement. *The deadline is the day before the new term begins, but we encourage you to apply earlier and recommend applying at least 6 weeks before the deadline.*

The deadlines are:

When you would like to use your entitlements from	The deadline to apply for a code
1 January	31 December
1 April	31 March
1 September	31 August

If you do not apply by the deadline, you will not be able to take up your entitlements in that term

It is important to remember that codes need to be reconfirmed every three months (except those issued a code for the supported families two-year free early education). You need to log into your childcare account every 3 months to reconfirm that your details are up to date and that you remain eligible for the childcare entitlements for working parents

Note:

- Due to the statutory guidelines, we cannot offer funded sessions longer than 10 hours. Therefore, if parents wish to use their free early education in 1 full session they can only claim for these hours.
- These guidelines are subject to change. Enchanted Day Nursery reserves the right to amend and make changes to the way we accept free early education, with written confirmation given to families the term before new funding starts.
- Free early education sessions do not include added extras e.g. meals/nappies. Families are given the option to provide their own or pay a fee for the nursery to supply these.
- Families requiring more hours are able to add these on to their free early education funding, at the nursery rate.
- Upon leaving the setting – if a family decide not to attend the 4 week notice period and would like to transfer their free hours on to a new setting, then the sessions within the 4 weeks will be chargeable at the current rate.
- If a parent fails to reconfirm their eligibility, their free hours will be removed from their booking and normal sessions rates will apply.