

EYFS Advice, Guidance and Templates



7.1 Universal Funding

Funding for children under 2 years Old

There is no funding for children who are under 2 years of age. It is the responsibility of parents to pay for childcare places through a private arrangement with their childcare provider, typically a day nursery or childminder.

Funding for 2 Year Olds.

There is no universal funding for children age 2 -3 years old, however, some children might be eligible for 15 hours of funding to enable them to access provision in a preschool, day nursery, childminder or nursery class for 15 hours per week. This free entitlement applies to about 40% of two-year-olds. It is for families in England, receiving certain forms of support with two-year-old children. Parents can check if you are eligible on the childcare choices website, and can apply online once they have created an account.

Funding for 3 and 4 year olds.

15 hours free childcare for all three and four-year-olds

The government provides funding for all three and four-year-old children to attend an Ofsted registered early years provider (for example, pre-schools, nurseries and childminders). This is known as the Free Entitlement (formally the Nursery Education Grant). It is for all families in England with three and four-year-old children. More information can be found on the childcare choices website.

30 hours free childcare for three and four-year-olds

The government provides 30 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks. This is for working families in England with three and four-year-old children. Parents apply for this funding, sharing the code they are issued with to their provider.