

**Information for Parents/Carers of Children born between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and are therefore eligible for 3 & 4 year-old nursery funding starting from the Autumn Term 2023**

All three and four year old children are entitled to 15 hours (or 30 hours if eligible) per week of Early Education Funding from the start of the funding term following the child's third birthday. This funding ceases at the end of the summer term funding period following the child's fourth birthday and they are registered to attend the reception class of a publicly funded school or an academy, as the funding entitlement is then received directly by the school or academy. Children that have deferred entry to school for a year can continue to receive their funding at an early years' setting until the end of the funding term in which they turn five, as can children that attend reception class at an Independent School.

**Children eligible for 15 hours (universal entitlement)**

Term	Funding Period	Term Time Only	Single Term Stretch	Annual Stretch (can only start in autumn term)
Autumn 2023	01/09/23 to 31/12/23	15 hours x 14 weeks = 210 hours	210 hours	180 hours
Spring 2024	01/01/24 to 31/03/24	15 hours x 11 weeks = 165 hours	165 hours	146.25 hours
Summer 2024	01/04/24 to 31/08/24	15 hours x 13 weeks = 195 hours	195 hours	243.75 hours
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>570</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>570</b>

**Children eligible for 30 hours** [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/childcare-funding/30-hours-funded-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/childcare-funding/30-hours-funded-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds)  
 30-hour codes MUST be obtained/reconfirmed via HMRC by: 31<sup>st</sup> August for autumn term; 31<sup>st</sup> December for spring term; 31<sup>st</sup> March for summer term

Term	Funding Period	Term Time Only	Single Term Stretch	Annual Stretch (can only start in autumn term)
Autumn 2023	01/09/23 to 31/12/23	30 hours x 14 weeks = 420 hours	420 hours	364 hours
Spring 2024	01/01/24 to 31/03/24	30 hours x 11 weeks = 330 hours	330 hours	295.75 hours
Summer 2024	01/04/24 to 31/08/24	30 hours x 13 weeks = 390 hours	390 hours	480.25 hours
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>1140</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>1140</b>

**What is the difference between Term Time Only, Single Term Stretch and Annual Stretch?**

- **Term time Only** is a maximum of 15 hours/30 hours over 38 weeks per academic year (weeks are broadly in line with the school terms).
- **Single Term Stretch** is the term time hours spread more thinly over more weeks in the funding period e.g., including half term weeks or summer holidays.
- **Annual Stretch** is the annual hours spread evenly over the academic year (1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> August), 4 months' worth in the autumn term, 3 months' worth in the spring term and 5 months' worth in the summer term.

## **Funding conditions**

- **Settings can decide how they offer the funded hours at their setting if they are within the guidelines below:**
  - Funding can only be claimed between 6am and 8pm.
  - Funding can only be claimed in a minimum of ¼ hour (0.25 hour) blocks.
  - A maximum of 10 hours funding per day can be claimed.
  - A maximum of 15 hours or 30 hours (if the parents have a valid 30-hour code) funding per week can be claimed.
  - A maximum of two childcare providers may be used in one day.
- If a child starts school the attendance at school counts as the child's entitlement.
- Annual stretch can only be started in the autumn term of each year; children starting nursery in the spring and summer terms should use Term Time Only or Single Term Stretch to get the maximum number of hours available.
- Hours cannot be 'banked' and moved to another term.
- If your child's usual attendance falls on a bank holiday, settings are not obliged to offer you the hours at another time in the term.

## **Help with childcare costs**

Parents / carers can get more help with childcare costs through Tax-Free Childcare, Tax Credits or Universal Credit.

### **Tax-Free Childcare:**

- for working parents, including the self-employed
- for every £8 parents pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year (up to £4,000 for disabled children)
- to apply parents / carers must sign-up online via the HMRC Childcare Service [www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare)

### **Tax Credits for childcare:**

- for working families
- with children under 16 (or under 17 if disabled)
- more information can be found here [www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/tax-credits](https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/tax-credits)

### **Universal Credit for childcare:**

- for working families claiming Universal Credit
- with children under 17.
- more information can be found here [www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-childcare/universal-credit-childcare-guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-childcare/universal-credit-childcare-guide)

## **Childcare calculator**

The government provides a childcare calculator which provides an estimate of how much parents / carers could get to help pay for approved childcare. As well as 15- and 30-hours childcare it also calculates if parents / carers might be eligible for Tax Credits, Universal Credits, Tax-free Childcare or help whilst studying.

The calculator can be found here: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)