

# Count me in!

## for Early Years Funding and Pupil Premium



Information for parents 2022/23

### What is Early Years Funding?

There are three strands of early years funding for 2, 3 and 4 year old children.

- **2 year old entitlement** - some two year olds are entitled to a maximum of 570 hours early education per year. To find out if you are eligible, you will need the National Insurance Number, date of birth and surname of the person in receipt of the qualifying benefit. You can:
  - Apply online [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s)
  - Apply by phone to Education Welfare Benefits Team on 01223 703200
- **Universal entitlement** - All three and four year olds are entitled to a maximum of 570 hours funded hours per year. Check the table below for the eligible dates of birth.
- **Extended entitlement** - Three and four year olds of working parents may be able to access an additional 570 funded hours per year if they meet certain criteria. For more information and to check eligibility, go to the website [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

If you are eligible for extended entitlement, you will be directed to the HMRC webpage to apply and will be issued with an 11 digit eligibility code which you should take to your early years provider. If you are a foster carer, please apply through your social worker.

The eligibility code will allow you to access an extended place where available. Your childcare provider will check the validity of the code before you take up your place. You will be reminded every three months by HMRC to confirm that your details haven't changed. You could lose your place if you do not reconfirm your circumstances in line with the HMRC advice or your job circumstances change and you no longer meet the criteria.

### Early years funded hours and when is my child eligible?

The funded hours entitlement is up to 570 hours a year, taken as a maximum of 15 hours over 38 weeks or fewer hours per week for more weeks in the year. The entitlement is spread evenly over the year and a maximum is set each claim period. The table below shows the maximum hours that can be claimed for either non-stretched or stretched. The funded hours entitlement is tracked from the period of eligibility.

	Non-stretched	Stretched
Spring	165 (11weeks x max 15hours)	148.2 hours (13 weeks x max 11.4 hours)
Summer	195 (13 weeks x max 15 hours)	239.4 hours (21 weeks x max 11.4 hours)
Autumn	210 (14 weeks x max 15 hours)	182.4 hours (16 weeks x max 11.4 hours)
<b>Total</b>	<b>38 weeks @ 15 hours = 570 hours</b>	<b>50 weeks @ 11.4 hours = 570 hours</b>

Providers will work in different ways and it is important that you check with them to see what their offer is. They must provide you with details of your entitlement, what hours they have available, and any charges you may incur for additional hours or meals. It may be that not all hours you have agreed to take up with your provider will be free hours. Paid for hours outside of the funded hours are a private arrangement between you and the provider providing it does not affect your ability to take up your child's funded hours.

The Universal and Extended hours cover and can be taken

- between 6 am and 8 pm
- no minimum session length (subject to the requirements of registration on the Ofsted Early Years Register)
- no session longer than 10 hours per day
- a maximum of two sites in a single day

### Table of eligibility dates

When is my child eligible?	A child born in the period	becomes eligible from the claim period
Children become eligible from the claim period <u>after</u> they turn <b>two or three</b> through to the claim period they turn five, inclusive of that period (if they do not take up a state funded place in reception class).	1 Apr to 31 Aug	1 Sept to 31 Dec
	1 Sept to 31 Dec	1 Jan to 31 Mar
	1 Jan to 31 Mar	1 Apr to 31 Aug

### **How do I find a childcare provider?**

It may be that one provider does not offer all of the hours that you need so you may use a mix of settings to take up the offer. Places are available at a range of early years settings including nursery schools and classes, day nurseries, play groups, pre-schools and childminders. Hours can be shared across multiple providers but no more than two sites a day.

If you need help to find a provider who offers Universal or Extended early years places, telephone the Family and Childcare Information helpline on 0345 045 1360 or access their website at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-information>

### **What do I have to do to take up my funded hours?**

Your provider will support you to complete the *Parent/Carer Declaration*. You must provide proof of your child's identity, address and date of birth (e.g. a short form birth certificate or NHS card) and agree when you will take up your funded hours. Your provider will not be able to claim funding for your place without this form.

If you have signed a *Parent/Carer Declaration* and either decide not to take up your place or to change provision partway through the term, you will need to discuss this change with your current provider. They will need to agree a change before you can be funded at another provision. It may be that you will need to pay the new provider until the following funding period.

### **What is Early Years Pupil Premium?**

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is extra government funding for your childcare provider to support the educational outcomes for eligible children. Your provider will use the money in ways they think will support your child's learning and development and enhance their learning experience by improving the teaching, learning, facilities and resources with the aim of impacting positively on your child's progress and development. They may combine the payments for several children, or work with other providers, in order to fund specific activity or training.

### **Is my child eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium?**

Your child will be eligible if they are 3 or 4 years old, accessing a free place, and you meet qualifying criteria.

To find out if you are eligible, complete the Parent Details section of the *Parent/Carer Declaration*. Your information will be checked on a secure government benefits system and you should receive a letter from the County Council telling you whether your child is entitled. If your child qualifies, a payment will be made direct to your childcare provider. For more information on EYPP please go to: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/eypp](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/eypp)

Once your child is entitled to EYPP, they will remain eligible until the end of their universal three and four year old entitlement of early education, regardless of any change in your circumstances.

### **Special Needs and Disability Access Funding**

If your child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, your childcare provider may be able to obtain Disability Access Funding (DAF) to support the access of your child. Please speak to your childcare provider. Disability Access Funding is to support early years settings to make initial reasonable adjustments and to build the capacity of their setting to support disabled children.

### **My child is starting school on a part-time basis, may I claim a free place until they are in school full-time?**

No. Once your child has started in Reception year at a school you are no longer entitled to access funding for their childcare no matter how many hours are being taken there. If, due to your family's circumstances, your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, this funding will also go to the school.

### **Taking up a free place with a childminder who is related**

**My sister-in-law (aunt, uncle, any other in-laws or related persons) is a childminder. She childminds my son when I work. Can she claim funding for my child?**

No. Government guidance published by the DfE clearly states that this is not permitted.

### **How do I complain?**

Please call 0345 045 5200 or access our website [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us/](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us/) for details on our complaints procedure.