



# Nursery Funding Explained!

## 2 Year Funding

Children can attend for 15 free hours per week, the term following their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, if you have funding in place as follows:

**Funding if you claim certain benefits** – this is issued by the Local Authority by letter with a code to share with Nursery

- 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
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

**2-year-olds can also get free 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

*If you have not received a letter from the Local Authority with a code as above, and think you are eligible please email [eypt@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eypt@stockport.gov.uk) and ask them to check.*

### **2 Year olds' Working Families Funding**

- You can receive 15 hours free childcare per week by applying for a code, to share with Nursery, at <https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>
- From Sept 2025 working families funding is expected to increase to 30 hours

### **Paid Places**

- If you are not eligible for low income or working families funding you can pay for either 15 or 30 hours per week @ £7 per hour (as at Sept 24)

# **3-4 Year Olds Funding**

**15 hours funding** - All children can receive 15 hours free funding, the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**30 Hours Funding** - If you wish to apply for 30 hours funding <https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

## **If you're working**

You can usually get free 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

If you start a new job or are on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

The date you start a new job or return to work will affect when you can get free childcare. For further information and dates, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

## **If you're not currently working**

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you are on carer's leave or if you get any of the following:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Limited Capability for Work Benefit
- contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance

## **Your income**

Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if you have one) must each expect to earn at least:

- £2,380 before tax if you're aged 21 or over (equivalent to £183 per week)
- £1,788 before tax if you're aged 18 to 20 (equivalent to £137 per week)
- £1,331 before tax if you're under 18 or an apprentice (equivalent to £102 per week)

This is the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week on average.

You can use an average of how much you expect to earn over the current tax year if:

- you work throughout the year but do not get paid regularly
- you're self-employed and do not expect to earn enough in the next 3 months

## **If you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago**

You can earn less and still be eligible for free childcare for working parents.

## **If you have more than one job**

You can use your total earnings to work out if you meet the threshold. This includes:

- earnings from any employment
- earnings from any self-employment

If you're both employed and self-employed, you can use just your self-employment income if this would make you eligible.

**If you or your partner have an expected adjusted net income over £100,000 in the current tax year, you will not be eligible.**