



**Early Years
Information for Professionals**
May 2024

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The Early Years Service

- The Early Years Service offer support, advice and challenge to all Ofsted registered childcare provisions; Childminders, Playgroups, Day Nurseries, Independent schools, maintained Nursery Schools and Schools offering two-year old provision and childminders registered with agencies.
- Early Years has a statutory duty to provide parents / carers with information regarding childcare within the local authority.
- Early Years are responsible for ensuring funding entitlements are available across the city for families meeting criteria and wanting a childcare place.
- Early Years work with childcare providers to ensure that the requirements of the EYFS are met, and children receive high quality early education
- Each childcare provider is allocated a Quality and Access Officer, who carries out support visits, reviews and can offer training.
- The Early Years Service offer termly briefing sessions and can offer support regarding sustainability and sufficiency of a setting.

Early Years Funding Entitlements

From April 2024 new funding entitlements were introduced to support working families. This means that there is now two ways of applying for funding, depending on each family's circumstances.

Entitlements include:

Terrific for Twos – 15 hours per week (term time) for 2-year-olds of disadvantaged families.

Universal Entitlement – 15 hour per week (term time) for all 3 and 4-year-olds.

Extended Entitlement – an additional 15 hours per week for eligible families of 3 and 4-year-olds.

Working Families Entitlement (new from 2024)–

- April 2024 – 15 hours (term time) for 2-year-olds of working families.
- September 2024 – 15 hours per week (term time) for children 9 months + of working families.
- September 2025 – 30 hours per week (term time) for children 9 months + of working families.

When Does Funding Start?

Early Education Entitlements

All entitlements begin the term after a significant age

When can families start accessing Free Early Education

Child's birthday (TFTS) or when they reach 9 months of age (working families)	Free Early Education starts
1 January – 31 March	The beginning of term on or after 1 April
1 April – 31 August	The beginning of term on or after 1 September
1 September – 31 December	The beginning of term on or after 1 January

Early Years – Terrific For Twos (TFT) Criteria

Criteria:

- In receipt of Income Support
- In receipt of Income-related Employment & Support Allowance
- In receipt of income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Receive support through part 6 of the Immigration & Asylum Act (NASS)
- In receipt of the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- In receipt of Universal Credit up to £15,400

OR

- Receive Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) & an annual household income less than £16,190
- Receive Working Tax Credits & an annual household income less than £16,190
- Receive Working Tax Credits 4-week run on (the payment when they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- The 2-year-old is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance

Early Years – TFTs Criteria

Criteria:

OR

- The 2-year-old is or has been looked after by the local authority for one or more days
- The 2-year-old has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health & Care Plan
- The 2-year-old has been adopted
- The 2-year-old has left the care of the local authority through a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order or an Adoption Order

Early Years – TFTs Criteria (2)

Criteria continued:

If you're a non-EEA citizen who cannot claim benefits

Your 2-year-old may get free childcare if you are getting [support under the Immigration and Asylum Act](#) and have either:

- claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')
- been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')

A 2-year-old you care for may also get free childcare if your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and you have any of the following:

- leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' on [family or private life grounds](#)
- support from your local council because you have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan
- the right to live in the UK because you're the main carer of a British citizen (known as a ['Zambrano Carer'](#))

British Nationals Overseas (BNO) - to access the TFT entitlement, they will need to fall within one of the categories where we have extended this entitlement irrespective of immigration status.

Early Years – TFTs Criteria (3)

Criteria continued:

After consultation, the DfE have added the additional groups that have been identified for the entitlement are:

- 1) those with a UK ancestry visa
- 2) those with temporary protection status under Section 12 of the Nationality and Borders Act; and
- 3) those with pre-settled status with no qualifying right to reside.

From 1 September 2022, the DfE will be extending the eligibility for the 2-year-old early education entitlement to children from all families with NRPF, subject to the maximum income thresholds as follows:

- £26,500 for families outside of London with one child.
- £34,500 for families within London with one child.
- £30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children.
- £38,600 for families within London with two or more children.
- A maximum capital threshold of £16,000 in all areas.

Early Years, TFT Postcards

- Throughout the year, the Local Authority receive approximately 6 DWP list, which identify families that possible meet the Terrific for Twos criteria.
- The Local Authority contact these families via a post card mailout. These postcards prompt families to apply for an online TFT code.
- If families don't have access to the internet or are not comfortable applying online, they can take the postcard and evidence of household income/ benefits to their chosen childcare provider, who can carry out either an online application or a manual check.



Early Years TFTs – Application Process

How to Apply:

- Parents/ carers apply by completing the online form on www.Terrificfortwos.com website, when their child is two. Successful applications will receive a childcare code, this needs to be taken to the chosen childcare provider as proof of entitlement.
- If the on-line application is not successful but the parents/ carers believe they do meet the criteria, they can take proof of income and / or benefits to their chosen childcare provider, who can then carry out a manual check

Early Years - Universal Entitlement

Free Early Education for 3 and 4 years-olds

All 3 and 4 year-olds in England are entitled to 570 hours of early education. This can be accessed either term time or stretched over the year.

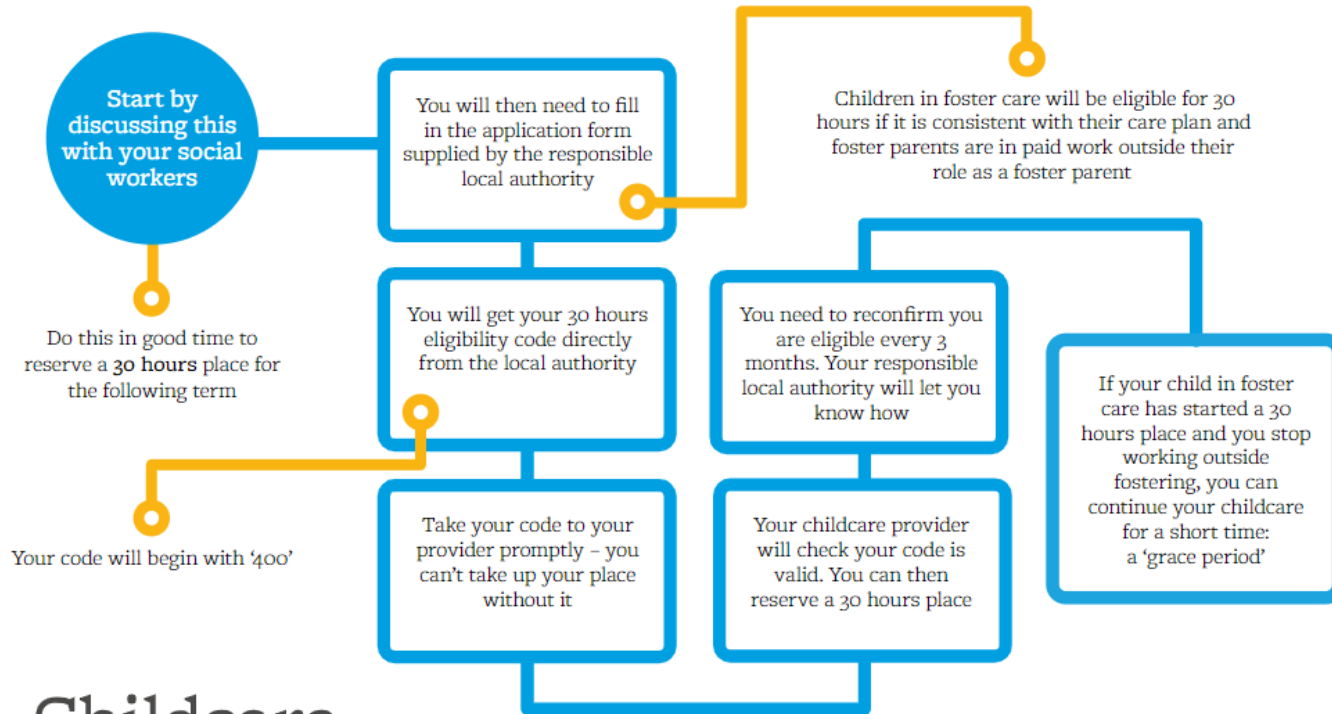
- Term time offers early education for 15 hours per week, over 38 weeks a year
- Stretched offers approximately 11 hours per week, over 50 weeks a year.
- The Universal Entitlement starts the term after the child's 3rd birthday (see date of birth ranges) and runs until the end of the term in which they turn 5.
- The Universal Entitlement can be offered by; Childminders, Playgroups, Day Nurseries, Maintained Nursery Schools, Nursery classes in maintained schools and academies (regulated by Ofsted or equivalent).
- Parents/ carers will need to take the child's birth certificate and proof of name and address, when arranging a place.

Early Years - Extended Entitlement (30hrs)

The Extended Entitlement was introduced in September 2017 and gives eligible 3 and 4-year-olds an additional 570 hours a year of early education.

- Both parents/ carers must be working (visit <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> for full criteria)
- The child must be accessing the Universal Entitlement
- Parents must set up a gateway account and apply through the HMRC's www.childcarechoices.gov.uk website
- Successful applications will receive an 11-digit eligibility code
- The eligibility code must be taken to the chosen childcare setting for validation
- The additional hours will start the term after the application is made
- Parents and settings must reconfirm and revalidate every 3 months
- The 30hrs can be take term time (30 hours a week) or stretched (approximately 22 hours over 50 weeks)
- If the child is fostered, the additional hours must form part of their care plan. Applications are overseen by social care (see next page)

How to apply for 30 hours as a Foster Parent



Childcare Reforms 2024

Funded Places for Working Families

2-year-olds From April 2024	9 months + From September 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gives up to 15 hour per week (term time)• Criteria, same as the extended 30 hours entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gives up to 15 hour per week (term time)• Criteria, same as the extended 30 hours entitlement
<p>From September 2025 children from 9 months + from working families will be entitled to up to 30 hours per week (term time)</p>	

To apply:

- Full criteria can be found on <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Parents/ carers must apply the term before they wish to access a funded place
- Parents/ carers must apply through Childcare Choices <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Parents/ carers must reconfirm their code before the end date state (approx. 3 monthly)
- Codes must be given to childcare provider for revalidation

Additional Financial Support for Parents

As well as funded childcare support, working families can access support through the government's Tax-free Childcare scheme.

Early Years - Tax Free Childcare (TFC)

- Parents access through the HMRC's www.childcarechoice.gov.uk website
- Tax Free Childcare offer an on-line savings account for working families. For every £8 a parent pays in the government will pay in £2
- This can be used to support additional childcare costs, e.g. Registered Holiday Playscheme
- Available for children up to 11 years (16 years for disabled children)
- The childcare setting must be registered with a regulatory body
- Parents must speak to their chosen provider to establish if they are registered to offer TFC
- Direct parents to the HMRC's website (above) or their Customer Interaction Centre on **0300 123 4097** for additional information on financial support for childcare

Additional Funded Support for Providers

Ofsted registered providers can access additional top up funding to support the needs of some children. This includes Disability Access Fund (DAF), Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Inclusion funding.

Early Years

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

EYPP is additional funding for eligible 3 & 4-year-olds that are accessing the Universal Entitlement.

**From April 2024, this will be available to 2-year-olds and from September 2024, to children aged 9 months +*

Application Process:

- Applications must be made via [Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\)](#)
- Applications can be done by parents, childcare settings, schools
- Successful applications will receive an eligibility code.
- If the form was completed by the parent/ carer, the eligibility code will must be given to the childcare setting or school in order for funding to be received.

Early Years DAF and Inclusion Funding

DAF and Inclusion funding are additional funding for eligible 3 & 4-year-olds that are accessing the Universal Entitlement.

**From April 2024, this will be available to 2-year-olds and from September 2024, to children aged 9 months +.*

Applications must be done through the Special Needs Early Years Service and in partnership with the child's family.

For further information, contact 01902 556517 or visit [Special Needs Early Years Service | Wolverhampton Information Network](#)

Wrap Around Care

As part of the Childcare Reforms announced in 2023. By September 2026, all primary aged children should be able to access term time, wrap around care from 8am – 6pm.

This will be at an additional charge for parents.

However, Tax-free childcare can be used to support these costs.

Families should speak directly to their child's schools to see what wrap around care they offer or which local Ofsted registered provider, they work in partnership with.

Early Years - Becoming a Childminder

- They must live in Wolverhampton Local Authority (i.e. pay council tax to WCC), to access funding.
- They can either register with Ofsted or a Childminding Agency.
- They must complete the Local Authority Safeguarding training and hold a full Paediatric First Aid certificate.
- Childminders do not have to hold a childcare qualification. However, it is desirable that they complete training in home-based care.
- To register with Ofsted or for further information regarding what they will to know and have in place before they can register, for example; training, suitability, references etc. recommend they visit the Ofsted website www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-registration-briefing-for-those-wishing-to-become-childminders

Family Hubs

Area 1 – Eastfield (Stow Heath, Eastfield)

Eastfield, Griffin Street,
WV1 2HH.

Tel: 01902 558331

Area 2 – Rocket Pool (Bilston, Bradley)

Rocket Pool Drive,
WV14 8B.

Tel: 01902 556416

Area 3 – Graiseley (Blakenhall, Parkfields, Goldthorn)

Pool St,
WV2 4NE.

Tel: 01902 550670

Area 4 – Bingley (Penn, Warstones, Pennfields)

Norfolk Road,
WV3 OJE.

Tel: 01902 551917

Family Hubs

Area 5 – Whitmore Reans (City centre, Whitmore Reans, Tettenhall)

Lansdowne Rd,
WV1 4AL.
Tel: 01902 556 585

Area 6 – Dove (Pendeford and Bushbury)

Ryefield,
WV8 1TX
Tel: 01902550887

Area 7 – Low Hill (Low Hill, Fallings Park and the Scotlands)

Jenks Avenue,
WV10 9JN.
Tel: 01902 556348

Area 8 – Children’s Village (Wednesfield, Ashmore Park, Heath Town)

Graiseley Lane,
WV11 1PE.
Tel: 01902 553945

Contact Details

- Early Years Service Early.Years@wolverhampton.gov.uk
- Terrific for Twos application - [Terrific for Twos application form](#)
- Childcare Choices - www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
- School Admissions – 01902 551122
- HMRC – Childcare Helpline 0300 123 4097,
- Ofsted – 0300 123 4666