

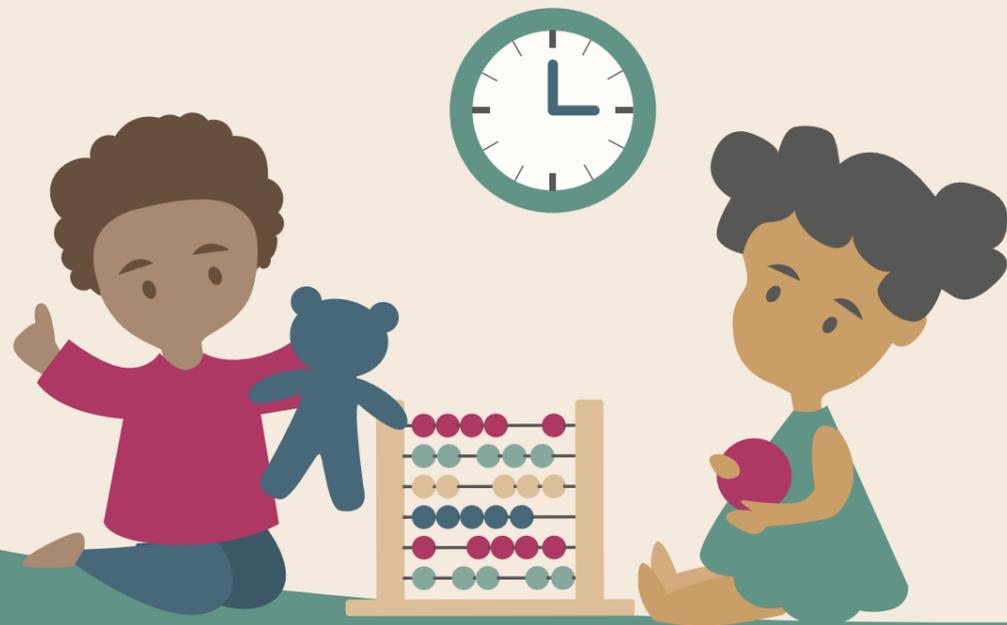


**Navigating Childcare Funding**  
A Comprehensive Guide

# Navigating Childcare Funding: A Comprehensive Guide

We understand that the cost of childcare can be a significant concern for many families. Fortunately, there are government-supported options available to help alleviate some of this financial burden.

Our brochure is designed to provide you with a clear understanding of your options and the steps needed to access this support. We hope you find this guide valuable in navigating the world of childcare funding.



# Understanding childcare funding

The government offers a range of funding options for families with children aged 9 months to 4 years. This below outlines some of the pathways accessible.

## 9-24 Months

### 15 Hours Funded Childcare

Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years can access 15 hours of funded childcare each week. This support is designed to help parents smoothly transition back to work, providing peace of mind that their child is receiving high-quality care during these crucial early years.

### 30 Hours Funded Childcare

Looking ahead to September 2025, this support extends an additional 15 hours. Working families will be eligible to apply for up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week, applicable from when your child is 9 months old until they begin school. This expansion provides substantial support, helping to cover a significant portion of your childcare needs during the work week.

## 2-Year-Olds

In April 2024, the government opened the door for working families to apply for childcare funding tailored to 2-year-olds.

This initiative offers up to 15 hours of funded childcare each week, spanning across 38 weeks of the year. Designed to support early development and ease the financial burden on families, this funding scheme aims to provide valuable opportunities for children to learn, play, and grow in a nurturing environment.



## 3-4 Year Olds

### 15 Hours Funded Childcare

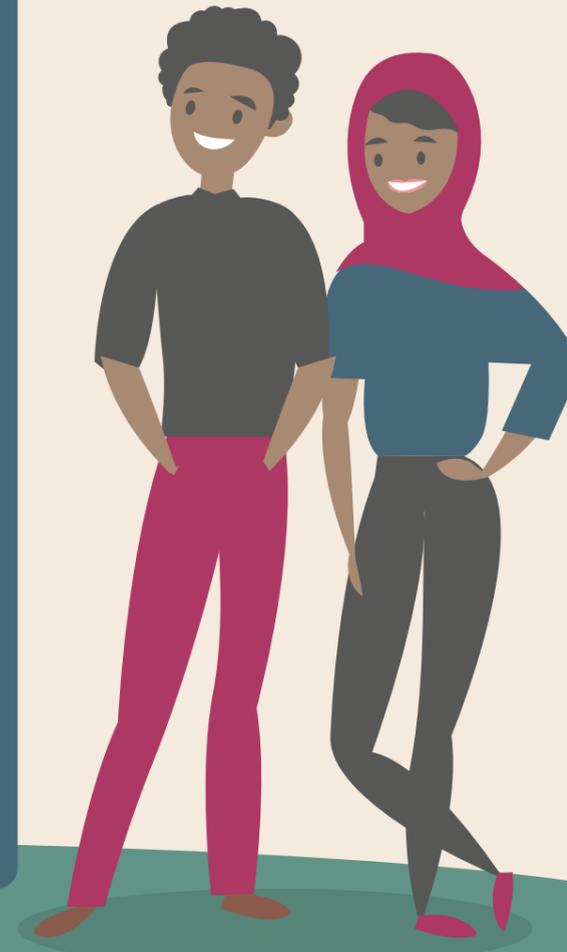
All parents of children aged 3 to 4 years are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare or early education per week for 38 weeks of the year, totalling up to 570 hours annually. This funding can be used flexibly with one or more providers until your child begins school.

### 30 Hours Funded Childcare for Working Families

Eligible working families can access up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week.

To qualify;

- ✓ Each parent must earn a minimum equivalent to 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage.
- ✓ Earnings will be under £100,000 adjusted net income/year.



# Stretching Funded Hours

Understanding the balancing act between work and family, we offer the option to 'stretch' your funded hours over up to 51 weeks instead of the standard 38 weeks. This means using fewer hours per week but over a longer period.

This extended schedule provides consistent childcare support throughout the year, reducing the need for additional arrangements during school holidays. This flexible approach ensures that your child enjoys a consistent routine while you benefit from a childcare schedule that aligns with your family's unique lifestyle and commitments.



## For 15 Hours of Childcare Funding

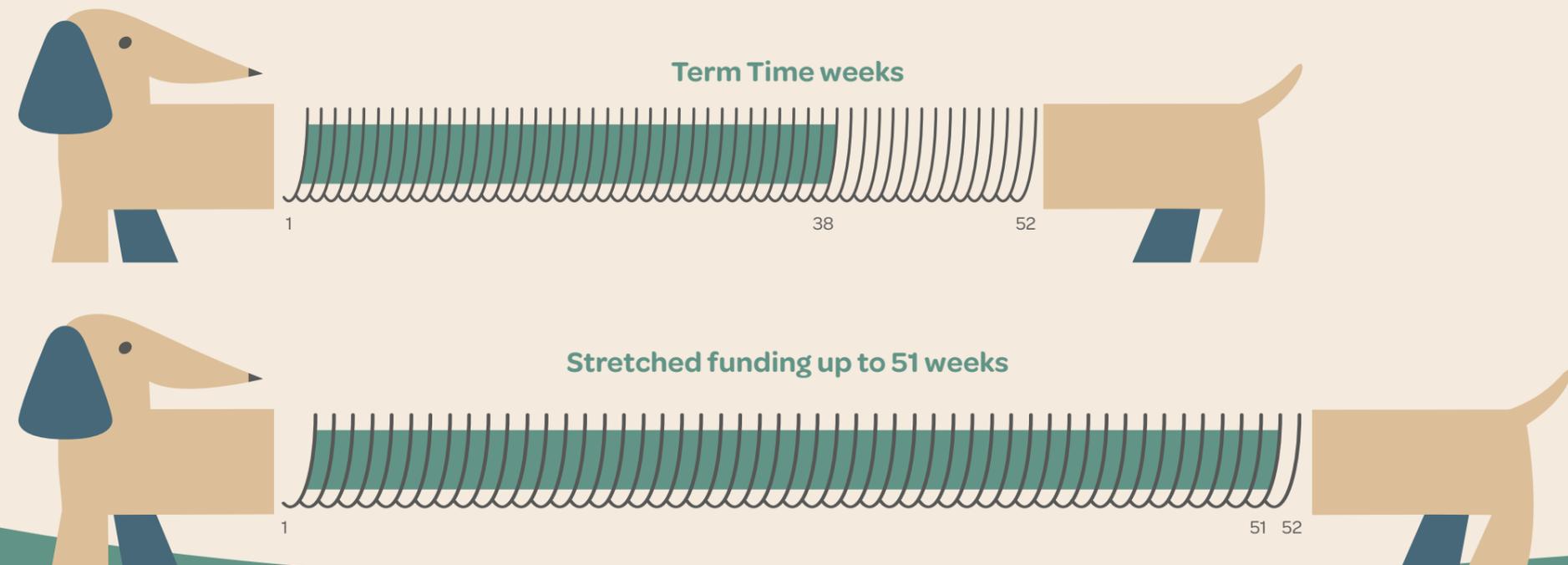
Traditionally allocated over the 38 weeks of term time, you have the option to extend this schedule to cover a 51-week period. By doing so, the weekly hours adjust to approximately 11 hours.

**15 hours lasts 38 weeks**  
**11.18 hours lasts 51 weeks**

## For 30 Hours of Childcare Funding

If you're eligible for 30 hours of childcare funding, you can choose to stretch this for up to 51 weeks. In this case, your weekly hours would be around 22.

**30 hours lasts 38 weeks**  
**22.35 hours lasts 51 weeks**



# Family First Benefits

At Family First, we go beyond just providing childcare; we ensure you're connected to your child's developmental journey every step of the way. Here's a unique advantage our families enjoy...

## Comprehensive Development Tracking

With our dedicated online app, you have the power to stay updated on your child's progress throughout the day. Whether you're curious about their meal times, sleep patterns, or the various activities they're engaged in, all this information is at your fingertips. Accessible whenever you need, our app ensures you're always in the loop, fostering a deeper connection between you, your child, and our nursery.



# Exploring Additional Government Childcare Support

Parents exploring childcare support may find they're eligible for schemes like **Tax-Free Childcare** and **Universal Credit**. These programs can sometimes complement the 15/30 hours of funded childcare, depending on specific eligibility criteria.

## Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) is a valuable government scheme aimed at helping working parents with the cost of childcare, including nursery fees and out-of-school care. Eligible for families with children up to 11 years old, and up to 17 years for children with disabilities, TFC offers significant financial support:

- ✓ Up to £2,000 per child per year
- ✓ Up to £4,000 per year for children with disabilities

## How does Tax-Free Childcare work?

For every £8 you contribute to your TFC account, the government adds £2, offering up to £2,000 per child annually.

### To qualify;

- ✓ Each parent must earn a minimum equivalent to 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage.
- ✓ Earnings will be under £100,000 adjusted net income/year.

## Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a financial support system designed to assist with living expenses for those who are on a low income, out of work, or unable to work due to health conditions.

For working parents who meet the criteria, Universal Credit offers substantial aid towards childcare costs.

### Eligible parents in the UK can;

- ✓ Claim back up to 85% of their childcare expenses for children aged 0-16 years
- ✓ Receive up to £950 per month for one child.



# Handy Government websites

➤ [Government Calculator](#)

## For all parents

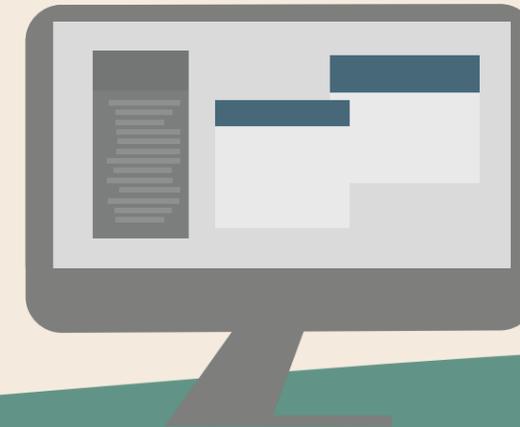
➤ [15 hours funded childcare for 3-4 years old](#)

## For working parents

➤ [Apply for childcare if you're working](#)

➤ [Tax Free Childcare](#)

➤ [Universal credit childcare](#)



For more information about how and when to apply for funding, visit our [website FAQs](#)



We hope this brochure has illuminated the pathways to accessing government funding that can make a significant difference for your family. Should you have further questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out for guidance.



# Essentials and Extras

At our nurseries, we believe in giving your child the very best experiences to help them grow, learn, and thrive. While government funding covers up to 30 hours a week of high-quality, flexible childcare, it doesn't include the wonderful extras that make their time with us truly special.

These additional experiences are optional, but they play a big part in enhancing your child's overall journey with us. From nutritious meals to fun-filled activities, here's what we offer to make their days even brighter:



Community Outings



Cooked Meals



Cookery



Outdoor Learning



Nature Experiences



Healthy Snacks



Home Learning



Enhanced Team Training



Music



Nappies & Wipes

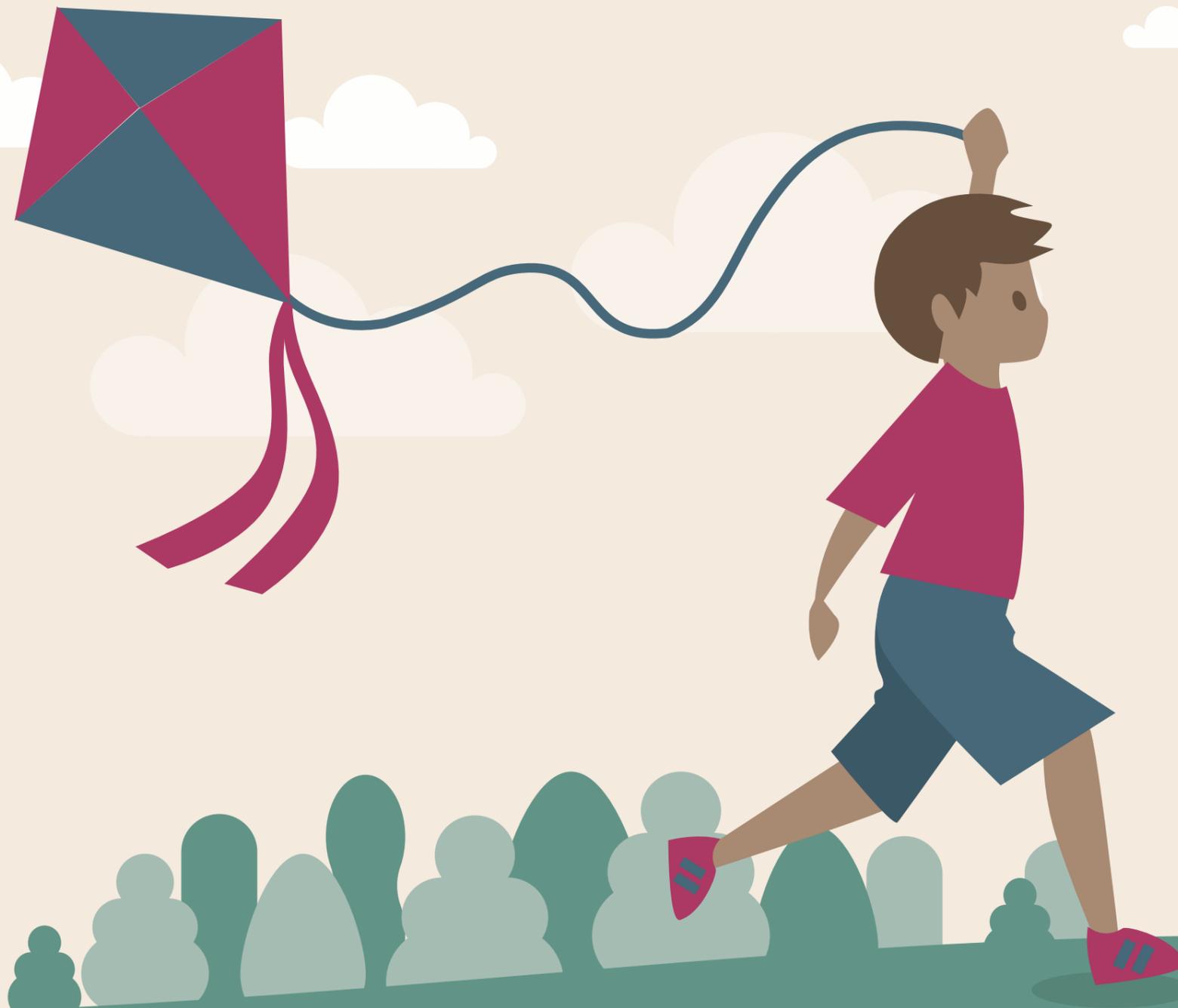


Creative, Messy and Sensory Play



Celebration of Events

\*These extras may vary between nursery settings. Please speak with the nursery manager to learn more about the specific extras available at your location.



# FAQ's

## Why do I pay for Essential Extras?

Essential Extras enhance your child's overall experience with us, offering valuable additions that go beyond standard care. These may include:

- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Consumables such as nappies, wipes, and suncream
- Internal extra-curricular activities, like cookery clubs
- External extra-curricular activities, such as music and movement classes, sports sessions, and trips

Please note: Each nursery setting offers its own unique Essential Extras.

We recommend speaking with the nursery manager to understand what is included.

## How can I find out more information?

Please visit the Government website.

➤ [Early education and childcare](#)

## How much funding will my child be entitled to?

Please see our age-specific childcare funding guides for more details.

➤ [Age related guide](#)

## Still have questions?

No problem, please contact our customer care team on

**0330 333 1080.**



## Contact us

Book a tour with your local nursery to discuss childcare funding with one of our nursery managers.

**T:** 0330 333 1080

**E:** [csa@familyfirstnurseries.co.uk](mailto:csa@familyfirstnurseries.co.uk)

**[familyfirstnurseries.co.uk](http://familyfirstnurseries.co.uk)**