



Funded Childcare Guide 2024



Thank you for choosing **Building Blocks** and placing your trust in us to care for and educate your child through their early years journey.

The fees and funding side of childcare can feel confusing and complicated. Our aim is to make it a little easier to get to grips with by communicating our fees and funding in a more simple format.

Working Families Entitlement

In 2024, the government extended funded hrs for working families from 9 months to 3 years, which is being rolled out in phases.



Government Funded Childcare - Changes for 2024 and 2025

From April 2024, all eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, which is 570 hours per year. This is available the term after your child turns 2 years. (1st January, 1st April, 1st September)



From September 2024, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, which is 570 hours per year. This is available the term after your child turns 9 months. (1st January, 1st April, 1st September)



From September 2025, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, which is a further 570 hours, a total of 1140 hours per year. This is available the term after your child turns 9 months. (1st January, 1st April, 1st September)





Working Families Entitlement (9 months to 2 years)

From April 2024, 2-year-old funding for eligible working families will be 15 hrs of government funded care. This has opened up the opportunity for new families to access early years education and extending financial support to families whose child/ren already attend our setting.

The Details

- ✦ **Building Blocks** offers funded hrs between 9.00am – 4.30pm and administer the funding as a 'stretched offer' whereby the annual funding entitlement of 38 weeks is stretched over 50 weeks and divided into 12 equal amounts (11.4 hrs per week).
- ✦ The 15 hrs of funding is stretched over 50 weeks – your child will receive 570 hrs per year which works out as 11.40 hrs per week.
- ✦ Children attending for 2 full days or more can claim the full 15 hrs (11.4 hrs stretched).
- ✦ Government funding covers care, not meals or additional services. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and any enhancements* during funded hrs are charged to the parent for each day.
- ✦ From September 2024 this will extend to children from 9 months old.

Current 2-Year-Old Early Education Funding

Who is Eligible?

Families can access the 2-year-old Early Education Funding if you live in England and get any of the following benefits:

- ✳ Income support
- ✳ Job Seeker's Allowance
- ✳ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ✳ Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- ✳ Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- ✳ The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- ✳ The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- ✳ Are looked after by a local authority
- ✳ Have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order
- ✳ Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- ✳ Get Disability Living Allowance

How to apply

For Wimbledon, log on to : <https://live.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Merton/synergy/>

For Teddington log on to : <https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/where-to-apply-for-childcare/two-year-olds-free-childcare-and-early-education>

You will need the following information:

- ✳ Your National Insurance Number (NI Number) or National Asylum Support Number (NASS) Number
- ✳ Your Date of Birth (DOB)
- ✳ Your own personal email address (this will become your account name)

Your funding will start the term following application (1st Jan, 1st April, 1st September)

Building Blocks offer a limited number of free standalone places for those in receipt of the 2, 3 & 4-yr-old funding. These places are based on availability within the settings and are issued on a first come first served basis. All children who are eligible for the 15 hrs funding may access them between the hrs of either 9.30am – 12.30pm or 2.00pm – 5.00pm Monday to Friday, Term Time only

Teddington Sessional Nursery - At our setting in Teddington, we offer a term time only sessional nursery for children aged 18-48mths. You can use your 15 funded hours here to access free nursery education between 9.15-12.15 during term time.





15 hrs Universal Funding for 3 and 4-Year-Olds

This funding is automatically applied to all 3 and 4-year-olds attending **Building Blocks**. There has been no change to 15 hrs of funded childcare for ALL 3 and 4 year-olds.

You will be contacted by our Early Years Accounts the term before your child is eligible to receive this funding.

The Details

- ✦ **Building Blocks** offers funded hrs between 9.00am – 4.30pm and administer the funding as a 'stretched offer' whereby the annual funding entitlement of 38 weeks is stretched over 50 weeks and divided into 12 equal amounts (11.4 hrs per week).
- ✦ The 15 hrs of funding is stretched over 50 weeks – your child will receive 570 hrs per year which works out as 11.40 hrs per week.
- ✦ Children attending for 2 full days or more can claim the full 15 hrs (11.4 hrs stretched).
- ✦ Government funding covers care, and not meals or additional services. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and any enhancements* during funded hrs are charged to the parent for each day.

Building Blocks offer a limited number of free standalone places for those in receipt of the 3 & 4-year-old funding. These places are based on availability within the settings and are issued on a first come first served basis. All children who are eligible for the 30hrs funding may access them between the hrs of 9.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday, Term Time only



30 hrs Extended Entitlement for eligible 3 and 4-Year-Olds

(From September 2025 this will include from 9 months old)

Who is Eligible?

Your eligibility of receiving 30 hours funded childcare for your 3 or 4-year-old, depends on:

- ✳ If you are working
- ✳ Your income (and your partner's income if applicable)
- ✳ Your child's age and circumstances
- ✳ Your immigration status

If you are working:

You can get 30 hours funded childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, Tax Credits, Childcare Vouchers, or Tax-Free Childcare if you are:

- ✳ In work
- ✳ On sick leave or annual leave
- ✳ On shared parental, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave

If you're on adoption leave for a child aged 3 or 4-years-old, you must return to work within 31 days of the date you first apply for 30 hours funded childcare for that child.

If you are not currently working:

- ✳ You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Limited Capability for Work Benefit or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.
- ✳ You can apply if you are starting or re-starting work within 31 days.

Any parents who believe they will be eligible for the 30 hrs of funding must apply for their eligibility code online. If your child is eligible for 30 hrs, this code MUST be re-verified every 3 months. Please go to <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker> to apply for an eligibility code. You can also check to see if you are eligible.

Please send the 30-hour code, along with your national insurance number to accounts@buildingblockschildcare.co.uk. We will check that the code is eligible before it is applied to your nursery account.

The Details

- ✳ The 30 hrs of funding is stretched over 50 weeks – your child will receive 1140 hrs per year which works out as 22.80 hrs per week.
- ✳ Children attending for 2 full days or more can claim 20 hrs (15.2 stretched).
- ✳ Children attending 3 days or more can claim the full 30 hrs (22.8 stretched).
- ✳ Government funding covers care, and not meals or additional services. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and any enhancements* during funded hrs are charged to the parent for each day.
- ✳ 3 days or more at nursery per week maximises the full amount of the government funding available to you.

*Extra Charges/Enhancements

Government funding only covers a limited number of hrs and does not include meals, essentials and all the activities and enhanced staff to child ratios that **Building Blocks** offers.

Your Early Years Manager will be able to provide full details, but this list will give you an idea of what we class as an extra charge/enhancement.

Nursery:

Enhanced staff /child ratios
Nursery care outside of funded hrs
Resources
Nursery equipment
Nappies/wipes/toiletries
Sunscreen

Catering:

Breakfast, freshly prepared lunch, dinner and AM and PM snacks

*Enhancements:

Forest School
Early Years PE
Hartbeeps



**Please speak to your Early Years Manager for enhancements on offer at your child's setting.*





When to apply for the Working Families Entitlement and 30 hrs funding for 3 and 4-Year-Olds

Your child will be able to use the 15 and 30 hrs of government funding depending on when their birthday falls, so make sure you plan ahead. For Working Family Entitlement, you'll need to apply online for an eligibility code.

A child turning 2 (15 hrs funding) or A child turning 3 / 4 (30 hrs funding)	Recommended time to apply for eligibility code:	Recommended last date to apply for eligibility code:	Can be funded from:
Between 1st September and 31st December	Between 15th October and 30th November	By 15th December to be funded from 1st January	1st January
Between 1st January and 31st March	Between 15th January and 28th February	By 15th March to be funded from 1st April	1st April
Between 1st April and 31st August	Between 15th June and 31st July	By 15th August to be funded from 1st September	1st September

Funding for 3 and 4-year-olds (15 hrs)

For 3 and 4-year-olds, our Early Years Accounts will send you a funding form to complete and send back by a specific date. That's all you need to do and we take care of the rest!

How to apply

Every term, you will be sent an email from our Early Years Accounts with instructions of what you need to do.

Working family entitlement (2-year-old – 15 hrs/ 3 and 4-year-old – 30 hrs)

The process is a little more complex and takes around 20 minutes – so ensure you have time set aside to complete this.

- 1 Visit the government website: <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker>
- 2 Provide your supporting documents, EG your child's passport.
- 3 Apply for your eligibility code. You'll need your National Insurance number too.
- 4 Wait for a decision. It might be instant, but can take up to seven days.
- 5 Email your eligibility code to accounts@buildingblockschildcare.co.uk along with your National Insurance number.
- 6 Don't forget to reconfirm your eligibility every three months!

For anyone in receipt of funding, we'll need you to complete the local authority Parental Declaration form each term which is emailed to you by Early Years Accounts. **Without this, we are unable to claim funding for you!** We can then carry on claiming funding for your child's place at nursery.