

Childcare Funding – Information for Parents and Carers

There are several childcare funding options available to families in Cambridgeshire. The funding your child may be entitled to depends on their age and your family circumstances.

Funded childcare for 2-year-olds

Some 2-year-olds may be entitled to **up to 15 funded hours per week**, over 38 weeks of the year.

Eligibility can include families receiving certain benefits, children who are looked after by the local authority, children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, and children receiving Disability Living Allowance.

There are also funded childcare options for eligible working parents.

You can check your eligibility and apply through Cambridgeshire County Council.

Funded childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds

All 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to **15 funded hours per week**, up to 570 hours per year.

You do not need to apply for a funding code for the universal 15 hours. Your childcare provider will ask you to complete the relevant paperwork and provide proof of your child's identity and date of birth.

30 hours funded childcare for eligible working parents

Eligible working parents may be entitled to **up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week** for children aged 9 months to 4 years.

The extended entitlement is subject to eligibility requirements. Parents need to apply through HMRC and **reconfirm their eligibility every three months**.

For children starting funded hours in the **Autumn term (1 September 2026)**, the deadline for obtaining the working-parent eligibility code was **31 August 2026**. Cambridgeshire County Council recommends applying well before the deadline as applications can take time to process.

Funding periods

Funded childcare normally starts at the beginning of one of the following funding periods:

- **1 January**
- **1 April**
- **1 September**

If you are applying for the working-parent entitlement, please make sure you apply and receive your eligibility code before the relevant deadline.

What do I need to do?

If you think you may be eligible for funded childcare:

1. Check your eligibility through the official childcare funding service.
2. Apply for your eligibility code if required.
3. Provide your code to your childcare provider.
4. Complete the Parent/Carer Declaration and any other paperwork requested by your provider.
5. Make sure you reconfirm your eligibility every three months if you are receiving the working-parent entitlement.

Your childcare provider will then use the information you provide to confirm and claim your funded hours with the local authority.

Useful contacts

Cambridgeshire County Council – Early Years Funding Team

 **01223 699805**

 eyf@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire Families Information Service

The Families Information Service can provide advice about childcare, funding options and finding childcare providers.

 **0345 045 1360**

 fis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

For eligible 2-year-old funding:

 Funded.twos@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Further information

For the most up-to-date information about childcare funding and eligibility, please visit the **Cambridgeshire County Council childcare and early learning pages**.

Please remember that eligibility is determined by the relevant funding authority, and your childcare provider cannot determine eligibility on your behalf.