

Funding Policy

Date of Policy: March 2019
 Responsibility: Kallie Barrington-Light
 Review Date: March 2020

As I am accredited and received a GOOD judgement from Ofsted, I am able to receive the Government's early education funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Funding is available either *term-time** for 38 weeks of the year; or *stretched* for 47 weeks of the year.

Somerset county council allocate the hours each term that I can claim funding for as follows:-

| Funding Period | Inclusive funding period dates | weeks | Equivalent in hours |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Autumn 2017 | 01/09/17 to 31/12/17 | 14 | 14 weeks x 15 hours – 210 hours |
| Spring 2018 | 01/01/18 to 31/03/18 | 11 | 11 weeks x 15 hours – 165 hours |
| Summer 2018 | 01/04/18 to 31/08/18 | 13 | 13 weeks x 15 hours – 195 hours |

Free entitlement is for early education only and does not include the cost of food or outings.

2 year olds – 15 hours

Free childcare for two year olds is not a universal offer, only eligible children may access this funding via an application process. Eligible children may access a Free childcare place starting the term after their second birthday.

| If your child is born between: | They are eligible for a free place from: |
|---|--|
| 1 st April and 31 st August | 1 st September following their 2 nd birthday |
| 1 st September and 31 st December | 1 st January following their 2 nd birthday |
| 1 st January and 31 st March | 1 st April following their 2 nd birthday |

In Somerset, families can apply for two year old funding:

- online by visiting <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/early-years-for->

families/funding-for-2-year-olds/

- By phoning the Entitlements Team on 0300 123 2224 or
- At a children's centre.

Two-year-olds who have met the eligibility criteria can continue to receive a place once they have taken it up even if the child ceases to meet the criteria at a later date.

If your contract is for more hours than the two year old funding, funded hours will be the first part of your contracted hours, for example, if your hours are 8am to 6pm Monday and Tuesday; all of Monday will be funded and part of Tuesday.

3/4 year old funding – Universal

All 3 to 4 year olds are entitled to free early education childcare for 15 hours per week during *term-time**. This funding can be *stretched* for 12 hours per week for 47 weeks. This funding applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

| If your child is born between: | They are eligible for a free place from: |
|---|--|
| 1 st April and 31 st August | 1 st September following their 3 rd birthday |
| 1 st September and 31 st December | 1 st January following their 3 rd birthday |
| 1 st January and 31 st March | 1 st April following their 3 rd birthday |

If your contract is for more hours than the *universal* funding, funded hours will be the first part of your contracted hours, for example, if your hours are 8am to 6pm Monday and Tuesday; all of Monday will be funded and part of Tuesday.

3/4 year old funding – Extended

Eligible 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 30 hours a week of free early education or childcare. This can be taken as 30 hours per week *term-time** or 24 hours per week *stretched* for 47 weeks.

To be eligible, both parents must be working, or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family, and each parent earns on average:

- A weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or national living wage; and
- Less than £100,000 per year

| If your child is born between: | They are eligible for a free place from: |
|---|--|
| 1 st April and 31 st August | 1 st September following their 3 rd birthday |
| 1 st September and 31 st December | 1 st January following their 3 rd birthday |
| 1 st January and 31 st March | 1 st April following their 3 rd birthday |

Eligibility is only valid for approximately 3 months. It is the parents' responsibility to check if they are still eligible for the 30 hours free childcare. If a parent fails to reapply for the *extended* 15 hours and loses the funding, they will be liable to pay for the additional hours at my current hourly rate of £3.95.

If your contract is for more hours than the *extended* funding, funded hours will be the first part of your contracted hours.

My contract with you is for any additional hours over the funded hours; meals or other agreed contractual payments (i.e. holiday retainer, late payment fee etc). The terms of our original contract remain in force and although funding is paid termly, your notice period will remain at four weeks.

If you wish to split the funding between myself and another accredited setting, please let me know **before** a new term starts, so we can complete the necessary paperwork.

As funding is paid termly, it is important that you claim for the correct number of funded hours at the beginning of each term. If you do not claim for your full entitlement, it is not possible to increase your *funding* once the term has begun. It is possible to increase your hours and you will be liable for the cost of these hours until the following term when you can claim your additional funding. Any unclaimed funding cannot be used at a later date.

For funding purposes, the terms are as follows: -

Autumn term 1st September to 31st December

Spring term 1st January to 31st March

Summer term 1st April to 31st August

If your child misses their funded hours due to sickness; your holiday or occasional days off, I am not required to provide alternative sessions. I do not claim funding when I am on holiday. However, if I am closed due to illness, the funded hours will be given back to you at a mutually convenience time.

It is your responsibility to inform Tax Credits of the change in your childcare costs.

Please feel free to contact me with any other queries you may have.

