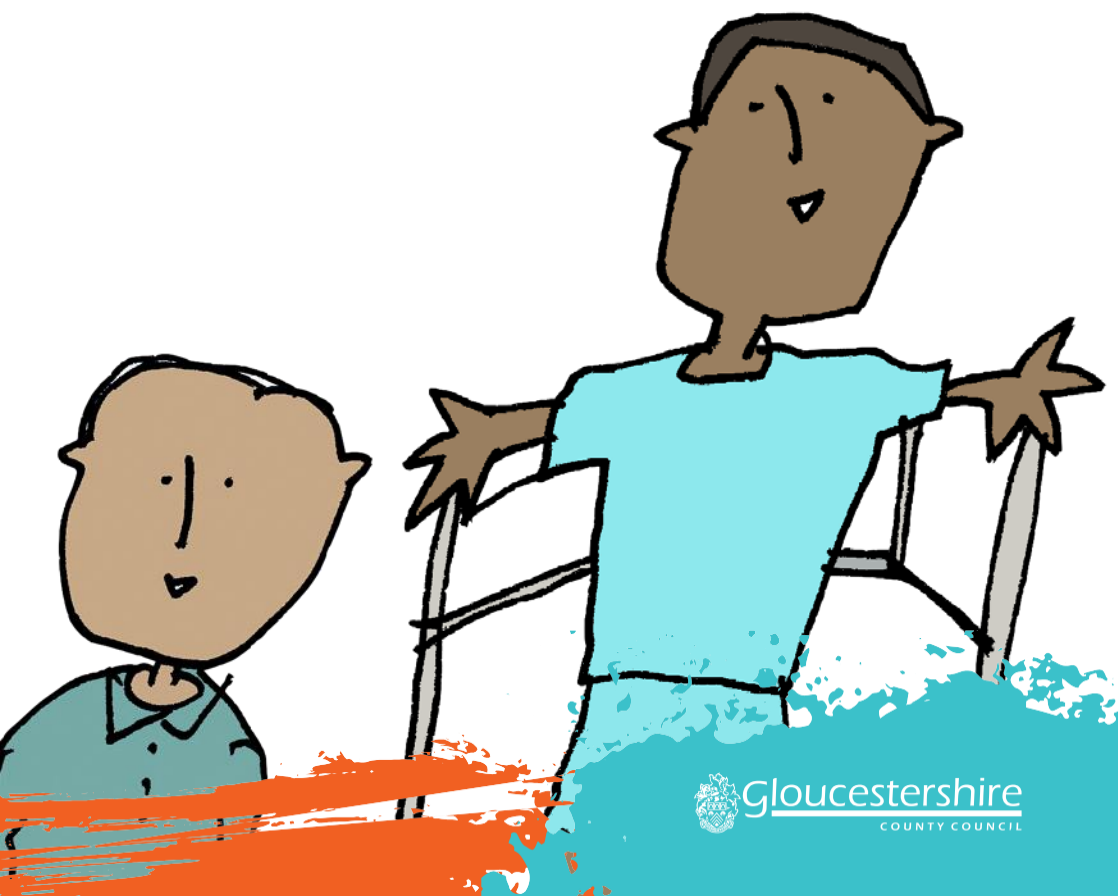




Gloucestershire County Council

Early Years Education and Childcare Eligibility and Funding

Information for professionals

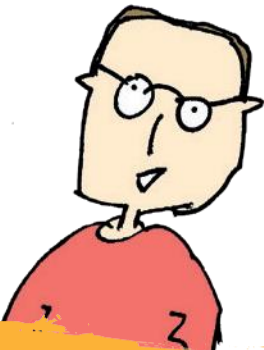


Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Sources of Early Years Funding

Children become eligible for 2, 3 & 4 year old funded entitlement from the term after their 2nd or 3rd birthday and up until statutory school age which is the term after their 5th birthday. The following table shows when a child is eligible to receive funding, these dates are consistent with those used for determining the start of compulsory education (all dates are inclusive):

A child born between:	Will be eligible for a funded place from:
1st January and 31st March	The start of Terms 5 & 6 (Summer Term) following their 2nd or 3rd birthday until statutory school age
1st April and 31st August	The start of Terms 1 & 2 (Autumn Term) following their 2nd or 3rd birthday until statutory school age
1st September and 31st December	The start of Terms 3 & 4 (Spring Term) following their 2nd or 3rd birthday until statutory school age



Free Early Education & Childcare for 2 year olds

A 2-year-old can get funded early education and childcare if they live in England and the parent/carer get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax
- tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A 2-year-old child can also get funded early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a local council
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order.

To check eligibility, please visit the website below for more information:

<https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/service.page?id=yO3m0x8mdjE>

Children under 2 are not eligible for free early education and childcare funding. In certain circumstances social care may consider funding the cost of a childcare placement for children under 2 or a child aged 2 who does not meet the eligibility criteria. A social care panel looks at requests from Social Workers for funding to support a child, including childcare costs, where this is part of a child's CIN/CP plan. This does not fall within the remit of Early Years budgets.

Free Early Education & Childcare for 3 & 4 year olds

15 hours entitlement

Every child is entitled to receive 15 hours of free nursery funding from the term after their 3rd birthday and this will remain in place until the start of their reception year at school or the term after their fifth birthday if they officially defer their entry into school.

Each child accessing the 15 hours of childcare is entitled to a total of 570 hours funded education during a year, either termly (15 hours a week over 38 weeks) or stretch over the full year (11.4 hours a week over 50 weeks).



30 hours entitlement

To be eligible for the additional hours, the parent and their partner if they have one, must be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the National Living Wage, live in England, and expect to have an income of less than £100,000 a year (£200,000 per couple).

Each child accessing the 30 hours of childcare is entitled to a total of 1,140 hours funded education during a year, either termly (30 hours a week over 38 weeks) or stretch over the full year (22.8 hours a week over 50 weeks).

Parents must apply for a code to access 30 hour funding by visiting:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

They can then visit:

www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk

to find a list of childcare in their area. Their chosen provider will then be able to confirm if they have availability and if they offer 30 hour funded places.

Accessing Early Education & Childcare for 2, 3 & 4 year olds in England and Wales

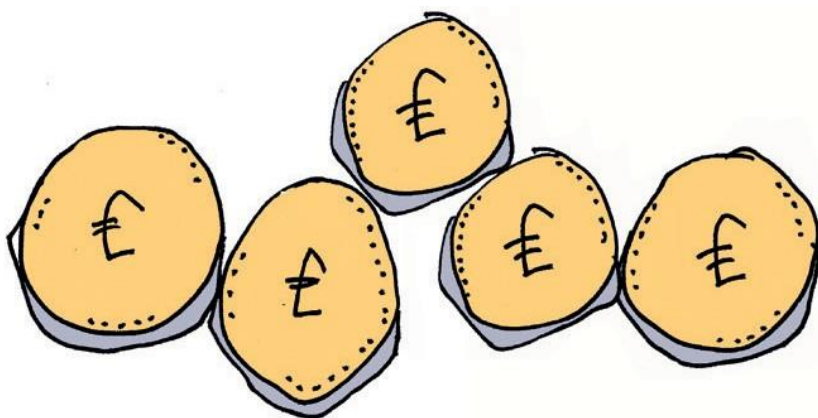
Gloucestershire County Council will only consider funding an Early Years placement for an English child in a Welsh setting if we are satisfied that there is no provision in England to meet an individual's needs.

A child from Wales can access the first 15 hours of early years education and childcare entitlement at an English setting but not the extended 30 hours.

A family from Wales wanted their 2 year old to access a placement in an English setting must apply to Gloucestershire County Council's Family Information Service to confirm their eligibility.

Using funding flexibly

For some children, attending their full funded entitlement may be overwhelming. In discussion with the Early Years locality lead it may be possible to claim for the child's full funded hours, even if the child attends for less hours, for a short period to enable the setting to enhance staff ratio or to provide other support to help the child to settle and for the provider to have a clear understanding of the child's needs. If after an agreed period further support is required the Early Years Team will support the provider to explore this.



Disability Access Fund

The Disability Access Fund was introduced in April 2017 to 'enable Early Year's Providers to anticipate and make reasonable adjustments to their provision and increase the capacity to support disabled children and children with special educational needs'. This resource cannot be used for 1:1 support. DAF provides the Early Years Setting an additional annual amount of £615 per child for those who are eligible.

3 and 4 year old children are eligible if:

- the child is in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA) and
- the child attends an early years provider for any part of their funded entitlement.

Four-year olds in primary and infant school reception classes are NOT eligible for DAF funding.

Early Years Pupil Premium

Children will be eligible if they are 3 or 4 years old and receiving early education funded hours in any provider, and their parents are in receipt of 1 or more of the following benefits, which are the benefits used to access eligibility for free school meals:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided they're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Or if they have been:

- looked after by the local authority for at least 1 day
- have been adopted from care
- have left care through special guardianship
- Subject to a child arrangement order setting out with whom the child is to live (formerly known as residence orders).

Early Years Deprivation Payment

Deprivation is a supplement payment made to early years providers for eligible children.

The eligibility criteria is based on the number of funded hours that a child attends at an early years provider and the score allocated to that child's postcode using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). The proportion of the annual budget is paid at the end of each term to providers based on the postcode scores.



Early Years SEN Inclusion Funding

Gloucestershire County Council provides inclusion funding to early years settings to help them to safely include and support individual children with emerging Special Education Needs and Disabilities where it has been assessed that additional resources are required to achieve positive outcomes for the child. The inclusion funding is a contribution to the resources needed to support the child and is not expected to cover all costs in all cases.

Please contact the Early Years service for more information about this if needed.

eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a Government scheme to help working families with their childcare costs. Parents will be able to open online childcare accounts to pay their registered childcare providers directly. For every £8 parents pay in to these accounts, the Government will add £2; the total amount in the account can only be spent on childcare. Parents can receive up to £2,000 in Government support per child, per year, or £4,000 for disabled children. Providers need to have signed up for Tax Free Childcare to be able to receive payments from any parents via the scheme.

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