



Information taken for the Government website.

From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents will be able to apply for their 15 hours childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March to apply for a code, with the best time to apply in mid-January to the end of February, in case they need to provide further information to support their application. Applications will be via the [existing application webpage](#) though obviously this is not accessible to two-year olds until January 2024.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parents need to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

More information on the range of childcare support available to parents can be found in the [Childcare Choices toolkit](#), where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

You need to meet the [eligibility criteria](#) before you can claim 15 hours free childcare.

You apply online here on [Gov.uk](#).

You'll need to make sure you have the following information to hand before starting the application:

- your national insurance number (or unique taxpayer reference if you are self-employed)
- the date you started or are due to start work
- details of any government support or benefits you receive
- the UK birth certificate reference number (if you have one) for your child.

You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days.

Once your application has been approved, you'll get a code for free childcare to give to your childcare provider.