

GUIDE TO PROVIDING FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT CHILDCARE

Parent approaches provider to ask about accessing their Funded Entitlement hours

Does the provider have an Early Years Funding Contract with Essex County Council?

***Please note: Nannies are not eligible to offer the Funded Entitlement**

Yes

No

Is the family eligible for Funded Entitlement hours? Parents can find out what help they can get towards childcare costs by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Parents can continue to purchase private childcare from the provider if they have space available.

The provider applies for an Early Years Funding Contract by completing the application form on the Early Years & Childcare website [Funded early education entitlement](#)

Please note: this process can take up to 2 months to complete before a provider can offer the Funded Entitlement hours.

Yes

No

9-Month to 2-year-olds

For those eligible working families who are entitled to 30 hours funding the term after their child is 9 months old.

Parents can check eligibility and apply through [Homepage | Best Start in Life](#)

If eligible they will receive a code which will need to be checked by the provider via the Essex County Council provider portal.

2-year-olds

Some families may be eligible for the 15 hours funding for families receiving government support. To check if eligible and to apply visit [Funded childcare for 2-year-olds: Eligibility | Essex County Council](#)

If accepted, parents will receive a code starting with TYF will need to be submitted as a placement notification on the Essex County Council provider portal

3- & 4-year-olds

All children aged 3 and 4 years old are eligible for the Universal Funded Entitlement of 15 hours (no code required.) the term after their 3rd birthday.

Eligible working families can access an additional 15 hours (total of 30 hours). Parents can check eligibility and apply through [Homepage | Best Start in Life](#)

If eligible they will receive a code which will need to be checked by the provider via the Essex County Council provider portal

The provider now has an Early Years Funding Contract and can deliver the Funded Early Education Entitlements

Restart the flowchart from the beginning.



Parent and provider to discuss what hours and days the childcare is needed and provider to confirm if they have the space available for the term the child can receive funding from.

Once the relevant code has been validated (if applicable), the parent and provider can confirm the childcare hours and complete the [Parent / carer agreement forms](#)

The provider then submits a claim for the funded hours on the provider portal

Remember: parents and carers can find local childcare providers using the [Find a childcare provider: Childcare search | Essex County Council](#)

Read our [guide on Funded Early Education Entitlement for 9-month-olds, 2, 3 and 4 year olds \(PDF, 243.92 KB\)](#) for more information and advice.

