



**Funded early education
entitlements**

and help to pay for childcare

Childcare
Choices





Working Parent Entitlement II from 9 months to 4 years

? What is available?

A child who reaches 9 months of age between	Will be age-eligible for the working parent entitlement from
1 April and 31 August	1 September
1 September and 31 December	1 January
1 January and 31 March	1 April

From September 2024

- 570 hours per year of funded childcare that can be used at one or more childcare providers
- Commonly offered as 15 hours a week term time over 38 weeks of the year
- Can be "stretched" depending on your childcare provider (fewer hours over more weeks of the year)
- 30 hours funded childcare (1140 hours) is already available for eligible 3- and 4-year-old children

From September 2025

- 1140 hours per year of funded childcare that can be used at one or more childcare providers
- Commonly offered as 30 hours a week term time over 38 weeks of the year
- Can be "stretched" depending on your childcare provider (fewer hours over more weeks of the year)

? How can you get it?

- Parents must apply online to HMRC to get an eligibility code to take to their childcare provider; scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet to apply
- All application queries must be directed to HMRC Childcare Service helpline (0300 123 4097)
- If the child is already over the age of 9 months, funded childcare cannot begin until the 1 September, 1 January or 1 April following a successful application



Application deadlines apply:

Application must be made between	For funded childcare to start from
1 September to 31 December	1 January
1 January to 31 March	1 April
1 April to 31 August	1 September



- Contact your chosen Ofsted registered childcare provider to see if they have any places
- Your provider will explain any restrictions on the hours available and any additional services for which a charge may be payable. These charges should be optional
- Foster carers must apply to the local authority responsible for the foster child; scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet for more information





? Who can get it?

- Parents (and their partner, if applicable) who earn on average the equivalent of working 16 hours a week at national minimum wage
- Parents (and their partner, if applicable) may be eligible if they are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave depending on the date of their return to work
- If you are not currently working, you may still be eligible if your partner is working and you are on carer's leave or receive Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or have Limited Capacity for Work Benefit
- The parent who applies must have British or Irish citizenship, settled or pre-settled status, or permission to access public funds



Disadvantaged entitlement – children aged 2

? What is available?

- A total of 570 hours per year of funded childcare that can be used at one or more childcare provider
- Commonly offered as 15 hours a week term time over 38 weeks of the year
- Can be “stretched” depending on your childcare provider (fewer hours over more weeks of the year)



? Who can get it?

- Parents who receive assistance such as Income support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, income related Employment Support Allowance, Tax Credits*, or Universal Credit*
- Parents who are non-UK citizens who have no recourse to public funds*
- Parents of children who receive Disability Living Allowance
- Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Children who are “looked after” by the local authority, or who have left care through Special Guardianship, Child Arrangement Order or Adoption



How can you get it?

- Apply to the local authority the child resides in
- Contact your chosen Ofsted registered childcare provider to see if they have any places
- Your provider will explain any restrictions on the hours available and any additional services for which a charge may be payable. These charges should be optional

When can it start?

- From the 1 January, 1 April or 1 September that follows the child's 2nd birthday, subject to a successful application



Is your child eligible? Scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet to find out more and to apply

Universal Entitlement – children aged 3 and 4



? What is available?

- A total of 570 hours per year of funded childcare that can be used at one or more childcare providers
- Commonly offered as 15 hours a week term time over 38 weeks of the year
- Can be “stretched” depending on your childcare provider (fewer hours over more weeks of the year)



? Who can get it?

- All 3- and 4-year-olds, regardless of the family's immigration status
- You do not need to apply for it

? How can you get it?

- Ask your chosen Ofsted registered childcare provider if they have any places
- They will arrange your place for you
- Your provider will explain any restrictions on the hours available and any additional services for which a charge may be payable. These charges should be optional

? When can it start?

- From 1 January, 1 April or 1 September that follows the child's 3rd birthday

Support with childcare costs

There are several schemes available to families who need financial support with childcare, which can be used in addition to funded childcare entitlements



There is also support available for parents who are studying

Care to Learn

- Weekly payments for a parent at school or sixth form college

Learner Support

- Help through their learning provider for a parent in further education

Childcare Grant

- A weekly grant for a parent in full-time higher education



Tax Free Childcare for working families

- Support with childcare costs for children aged from 0-11 years, or 16 if your child is disabled
- Up to £2,000 a year for each child, or £4,000 if your child is disabled



Universal Credit for working families

- Support with childcare costs for children aged from 0-16 years
- Claim back up to 85% of childcare costs



Working Tax Credits (childcare element)

- Support with childcare costs for children aged from 0-15 years, or 16 if your child is disabled
- Claim back up to 70% of your childcare costs

An easy guide to help your child to be
...ready for school ...ready to learn
...ready to succeed

S ...shoes, socks and put on clothes 

- Encourage independent dressing/ undressing
- Provide easy fitting clothes and shoes
- Allow extra time to practise
- Practise buttons and zips

T ...talk, listen, share and follow instructions 

- Switch off technology for a while
- Do everyday tasks together
- Talk about what you are doing, what they are doing and what you see
- Chat, play, read, sing and have fun!!
- Visit your local library, it's FREE

A ...ask for help 

- Encourage your child to have a go at things and to ask for help when they need it
- Model how to ask for help using a full sentence: "Please can you help me?"
- Talk about who to safely ask for help
- Tell your child that it is ok to ask for help

R ...ready to try different foods and tools 

- Have fun together playing with playdough, lego, painting, drawing and singing finger rhymes
- Buy and explore new foods together
- Practise using a knife, fork, spoon and scissors
- Celebrate your child trying new food and tools

T ...toileting 

- Talk about using the toilet and why they need to wash their hands
- Wear clothes they can take down themselves
- Give positive praise for having a go
- Ask for support from your health visiting team if you are worried (aged 0-5years)

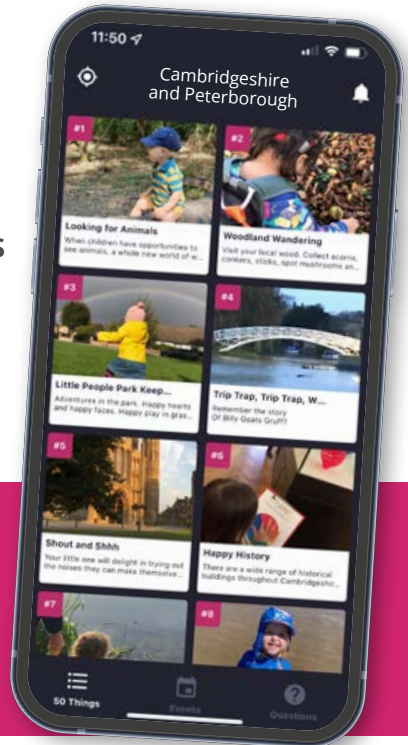


Find out more at www.peterborough.gov.uk/START
or call 01733 747474 for information

50 **before you're** things to do **five**

An exciting menu of low-cost activities for families with young children in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, providing ideas for how to have fun and learn at the same time.

Try some of the 50 Things activities! Explore new activities, or revisit activities and events that encourage your child to have a go, to help build their confidence.



Spend time together, talking, singing, storytelling, visiting the library, take a talking walk sharing what you see, hear, feel, and smell.

Practising dressing and undressing, understand staying healthy, build confidence and knowing that it is ok to share their thoughts, feelings and needs.

Use the app activities to help your child be ready for school

Scan the QR code to download the **50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE FIVE** app or visit www.50thingstodo.org

Find out more

Scan the QR codes below to see what help you could receive



Apply for
Disadvantaged
Entitlement (age 2)

www.peterborough.gov.uk/freefortwos



Apply for Working Parent Entitlement
(9 months to 4 years)

www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working



Funded entitlements for
children in foster

[www.peterborough.gov.uk/](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/funding-for-children-in-foster-care)

[funding-for-children-in-foster-care](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/funding-for-children-in-foster-care)



Find out what help you could
get with childcare costs

www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator



Find a childcare provider
in Peterborough

www.peterborough.gov.uk/FIS



Cambridgeshire
and Peterborough

Family
Hubs 



www.peterborough.gov.uk/family-hubs