

# Eligibility Checklist

You can use this tool to work out if you're eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare for working families. Please tick each box that applies to you.

- ☐ My child will be 2 years old on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2024.
- ☐ I'm in a two parent household where both parents work, or, I'm in a lone parent household and I work (including self-employment or zero-hours contracts).
- ☐ I/We each on average earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours on the minimum wage per week (£183.04 from April 2024).
- ☐ I/We each earn less than £100,000 per year.

**If you were able to tick each box above, then you are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week (38 weeks). If you were unable to tick box 2, then you will still be eligible if you are able to tick any of the following boxes.**

- ☐ I am from a two parent household where one of us works (in line with the minimum average earnings threshold) and one of us is on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption, or sick leave.
- ☐ I am from a lone parent household and I am on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption, or sick leave.
- ☐ I am from a two parent household where one of us works (in line with the minimum average earnings threshold) and one of us is in receipt of benefits relating to caring responsibilities or has a disability.



**Charnwood  
Trust**

Charity No. 502610



## Funded childcare for working families 2 year olds

Some families are entitled to funded childcare the term after they their child turns 2 years old.

Please use this guide to help you work out if your child is eligible for up to 15 hours per week of government funded childcare (38 weeks / up to 570 hours per year).

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# Eligibility

# Charnwood Offer

From April 2024, the government is offering funded childcare for children who are 2 years old through two different pathways:

- The current local offer of free childcare for 2 year olds of eligible families in receipt of benefits.
- The new offer of free childcare for 2 year olds of eligible working families (from April 2024).

Your 2-year-old can get free childcare if you live in England and get any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments

They can also get free childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get [Disability Living Allowance](#)
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

**You will receive a letter, email or text message from the local authority if you are eligible. If you have any questions, please email**

[eyportal@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eyportal@stockport.gov.uk).

From April 2024, eligible working families can claim up to 15 free hours of childcare for children the term after their 2nd birthday.

For children to be eligible both parents must be working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent will earn on average the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the minimum wage (£183.04 from April 24) and no more than £100,000 per year. If you are self-employed or on a zero-hours contract, you will be eligible if your average earnings meet the criteria above.

Parents who wish to apply for the 15 hour working entitlement should do so through [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Once registered, this system will also automatically enter you into the **Tax-Free Childcare scheme** that can help you to cover the cost of childcare. For every £8 you pay into the account, the government will add £2 that you can then use to pay for any additional fees. If you need any help or advice on how to do this, please speak to us, we are more than happy to help.

While Charnwood offers the option of 15 hour places to families of 2 year olds, this is dependent on availability. Charnwood is consistently oversubscribed and it may not be possible to accommodate all requests. Please also note that the free funding does not cover the cost of extras such as food, nappies or any wrap around care.

If you are a working family and are unsure if you are eligible, we have created a quick eligibility tool on the back page that will allow you to do an initial self-assessment. If you're still not sure, please give us a call on 0161 442 7767 or drop us an email at [info@charnwoodnursery.org.uk](mailto:info@charnwoodnursery.org.uk)