**Childcare Support for Parents with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) in England: A Guide**

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In England, the Government provides some funding for early education and childcare. Different support is available based on a child's age, parents’ work status, immigration status and whether or not the family are getting benefits like Universal Credit.

Parents who are subject to NRPF can access some of this support. But some schemes have specific requirements related to parents’ immigration status, so not all families may qualify for them.

Below is a guide, shown by the child’s age, of what childcare is accessible for parents who are not UK nationals, with or without NRPF.

**For 2-Year-Olds (15 Hours):**

If you’re a non-UK citizen living in England and have a 2-year-old, you may qualify for **15 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year**.

**Parents with NRPF**

If you have NRPF as a condition of your visa, to be eligible for this support your household income (the total earned by everyone in your household before tax) must be lower than the thresholds below.

Other groups that are eligible for this support include:

* **Families in Receipt of Asylum Support:** Parents can access 15 hours of free childcare for their two-year-olds if their family receives asylum support (for example, Section 95 or Section 98);
* **families without status in the UK** (sometimes called “undocumented”);
* **families receiving section 4 Home Office asylum support**;
* **families with pre-settled status who are unable to meet right to reside rules**.

To be eligible, your total household income must be no more than:

* £26,500 for families outside of London with 1 child
* £30,600 for families outside of London with 2 or more children
* £34,500 for families within London with 1 child
* £38,600 for families within London with 2 or more children

You also cannot have more than £16,000 in savings and investments.

**Parents who have access to benefits**

If you are not a UK citizen living in England and have had a change of conditions so that you can access public funds, you can also qualify for this support if:

* you get benefits because your income is low;
* your child has an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* get Disability Living Allowance.

**How to apply:** contact your childcare provider or your local authority for more information.

**For more information,** see the Government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

**For 3 and 4-Year-Olds (15 Hours):**

All children aged 3 and 4 in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year. This is usually taken as 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year (school term times), but you can also ask to take fewer hours per week spread over 52 weeks. **This support is available to every parent, regardless of their immigration status.**

Some important points to note:

* This care must be provided by an approved childcare provider.
* You can get it from the term after your child’s 3rd birthday (for example, if their birthday is in February, you would be able to start receiving this support in the summer term).
* You may have to pay extra for costs like meals and nappies – your childcare provider will tell you more.

**How to apply:** contact your childcare provider for more information.

**For more information:** see the Government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds?step-by-step-nav=f237ec8e-e82c-4ffa-8fba-2a88a739783b>

**For 3 and 4-Year-Olds (30 Hours):**

Some parents are entitled to an extra 15 hours per week of childcare for their 3- and 4-year-old child if they are working and are either a British citizen or have recourse to public funds.

To be eligible, you must:

* Be working at least 16 hours per week at the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage;
* If you have a partner that lives with you, they must be working at least 16 hours per week at the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage;
* If you are not a UK national, you may be eligible if you have access to public funds (i.e. you have received a change of conditions).
* You may also be eligible if you have settled or pre-settled status, or are waiting for a decision, under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Some important things to note:

* Care must be provided by a registered childcare provider;
* You may have to pay extra for costs like meals or nappies;
* You can apply from when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old, and your child can start the term after their 3rd birthday.
* There are different rules if you are self-employed.

**How to apply:** you have to set up an online account and apply online here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>

**For more information:** see the Government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare?step-by-step-nav=f517cd57-3c18-4bb9-aa8b-1b907e279bf9>

**Universal Credit support with childcare**

If you have access to public funds and are receiving Universal Credit, you may be able to get support with up to 85% of your childcare costs. It doesn’t matter how old your child is.

To qualify you need to meet the following criteria:

* You need to be working – although it doesn’t matter how many hours you work;
* If you live with a partner, they need to be working too;
* If you aren’t working yet but would like to start work, you need to have an offer of a job.

If you qualify, the most support you can get back each month is:

* £950.92 for one child;
* £1,630.15 for 2 or more children.

**Some important things to note**

* Care must be provided by a registered childcare provider;
* Usually, you need to pay the costs upfront and then claim the support back through your Universal Credit account;
* However, you might be able to get some support to help you pay the upfront costs.

**How to apply:** you need to apply for this support through your Universal Credit account.

**Find out more:** you can find out more on the Government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-childcare-costs>

**What’s changing?**

The Government is extending support for childcare costs for working parents of younger children from April 2024 onwards. By September 2025, it aims to offer working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years 30 hours of childcare per week for 38 weeks per year.

To qualify, you must:

* Be working at least 16 hours per week at the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage;
* If you have a partner that lives with you, they must be working at least 16 hours per week at the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage;
* Be a British citizen or have recourse to public funds.

If you are not a UK national, you may be eligible if you have access to public funds (i.e. you have received a change of conditions). You may also be eligible if you have settled or pre-settled status, or are waiting for a decision, under the EU Settlement Scheme.

**When is it changing?**

* From April 2024, working parents of 2-year-olds children will be able to get 15 hours per week of government-funded childcare;
* From September 2024, working parents of children from age 9 months to 3 years will be able to access 15 hours per week;
* From September 2025, working parents of children under the age of 5 will be able to get 30 hours per week of government-funded childcare.

**More information and how to apply**

Families can refer to the [government information about 30 hours free childcare](https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare) and [information about how to apply for childcare](https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare).