



**All the small things your child learns from 9 months old can make a big difference later.**

Early education and childcare sessions at a nursery, preschool or childminder can help your child:

make friends and have fun

develop routines

get ready for school

grow their language and communication skills

and supports parents to work

**Give your child the best possible start to life.**

## Help with childcare costs

### Tax Free Childcare

Parents can apply online through Childcare Choices and can save up to £2000 per year, per child, or up to £4000 per year for a disabled child. For every £8 you pay in, the government will top it up with an extra £2.

### Find out more

Find out more about additional help with childcare costs and what is best for your family through the easy to use website [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## Other funding

Some children may be eligible for additional funding.

Speak to your childminder, nursery or preschool for more details if you think your child may be eligible.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is paid to your childminder, preschool or nursery to spend on facilities, equipment and learning experiences to benefit your child. Find out more at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/eypp](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/eypp)

Disability Access Fund (DAF) - find out more at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/daf](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/daf)

## Contact us

- Email: [eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 01785 278201
- [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare)
- [www.staffordshireconnects.info](http://www.staffordshireconnects.info)



 Staffordshire  
County Council

## Early education and childcare

For children from 9 months old



[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare)

COP2327/22

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fundedchildcare)



# Children from 9 months old - working parents

Some children whose families are working, are eligible for funded early education and childcare sessions at a childminder, nursery or preschool.



From April 2024 - 15 hours  
for children from 2 years old

From September 2024 - 15 hours  
for children from 9 months old

From September 2025 - 30 hours  
for children from 9 months old



To find out if you are eligible and apply, go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)  
You can apply for your code up to 16 weeks before your child becomes age eligible

If your application is approved you'll be sent a confirmation code from HMRC which must be passed onto your childcare provider. Parents must reconfirm their eligibility with HMRC every 3 months.  
Funding will start from the term after you receive your code from HMRC for an age eligible child.

# For families receiving additional government support

## THINK2

Funded Early Learning Childcare Sessions

Some families may be eligible for up to 15 hours of funded childcare for their 2 year old if they are in receipt of certain benefits. In Staffordshire this is called Think2.

Applications for Think 2 are made directly to Staffordshire County Council. To find out more and apply, go to:  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/think2](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/think2)

If you can't get online or need help to apply, talk to your Family Hub or main library. You can also call one of the team on:  
**0300 111 8007** or  
email: [eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk)  
If you are already receiving Think2 funding, there is no need to reapply or reconfirm.

### When can I apply for Think2?

Apply from the term your child has their 2nd birthday or at any point after.  
If your child is confirmed eligible for Think2, the funding will stay in place, even if your circumstances change.

Child turns 2 years of age between:	Earliest you can apply:	Earliest you can start:
1st January - 31st March	Spring Term (from 1st January)	Summer Term (from 1st April)
1st April - 31st August	Summer Term (from 1st April)	Autumn term (from 1st September)
1st September - 31st December	Autumn term (from 1st September)	Spring Term (from 1st January)



# 3 & 4 year olds

## 15 Hours

- Every 3 and 4 year old is entitled to 15 hours of funded early education and childcare sessions per week.
- You don't need to apply for the funding, just go straight to a registered or approved childminder, nursery or preschool to book your child's place.**

The funded hours will start from the term after the child's 3rd birthday



## 30 Hours - for working parents

- Some families of 3 and 4 year olds who meet the earnings criteria may be eligible for an additional 15 hours of early education and childcare sessions, totalling up to 30 per week.

Child turns 3 years of age between:	Earliest they can start:
1st January - 31st March	Summer Term (from 1st April)
1st April - 31st August	Autumn Term (from 1st September)
1st September - 31st December	Spring Term (from 1st January)

### Is your child eligible?

Apply online for the extra 15 hours at:  
[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

If your application is approved you'll be sent a confirmation code from HMRC which must be passed onto your childcare provider. Parents must reconfirm their eligibility with HMRC every 3 months.  
The extra 15 hours start from the term after you receive your code from HMRC for an age eligible child.

If you are already receiving working parent funding, no need to reapply - just continue to reconfirm eligibility every three months.

