

FREE Childcare and Early Learning for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds



walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk

020 8496 3566

What is on offer for 2-year-olds?

15 hours free childcare

Almost a third of families with a 2-year-old child can claim up to **15 hours of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)** per week during term time or 570 hours across the year.

Check Now!

Please visit:

walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

Create your account and apply online to get your eligibility code and letter, then take it along with your child's birth certificate to your school or childcare provider. **Only providers with a Good or Outstanding Ofsted rating can provide FEEE places.**

Need assistance?

Contact the Childcare Team
childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk
020 8496 3566



Your 2-year-old will be eligible if your family gets one of the following benefits:

- income support or income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Tax Credits, and you have an annual income under £16,190 before tax
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, and you have an annual income under £15,400.

If you're not receiving any benefits, your 2-year-old can qualify if they:

- have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan)
- get Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- are looked after by a local authority in England or Wales ('in care') or have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangement order or adoption order in England or Wales.

If you're a non-EEA citizen who cannot claim benefits and

- claimed asylum in the UK
- been refused asylum in the UK

If your income is below £15,400 a year and you have

- leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds'
- you're the main carer of a British citizen

What is on offer for 3 & 4 year olds?

15 hours free childcare and early learning from the term after your child turns 3

Good news! All families are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare and early learning per week in school term time, or 570 hours across the whole year. Just contact your preferred school or childcare provider to apply directly, contact the Childcare Team for assistance in finding a place, or visit the Childcare Directory at: walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

30 hours free childcare

Working families (including foster families*) earning at least £142 a week or more could get an extra 15 hours of free childcare – a total of 30 hours per week in school term time or 1140 hours across the whole year.

** Subject to foster child's care plan*

Tax-free childcare from 0–12*

Working families in the UK with children under 12 (*or under 17 if disabled) can apply. For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 per year for a child registered as disabled.

IMPORTANT

If you're claiming 30 hours* free childcare, **you must apply and receive your eligibility code before the term begins.** If you do not get this in time, you will need to wait until the next term. 30 hour codes need reconfirming every three months.

Find out more about 30 hours and Tax-free childcare

Visit childcarechoices.gov.uk to set up a Tax-Free Childcare account and apply for your 30 hours eligibility code. Call the HMRC childcare helpline **0300 123 4097**



How to apply & when

All children are eligible to 15 hours of free childcare, (or 30 hours if eligible) from the term after they turn 3.

If your child is eligible for then they can start in a FEEE providing setting the term after they turn 2.

Find out from your chosen provider how and when to apply.

Birthday is between:	Start date from:
1st April – 31st August	1st September
1st January – 31st March	1st April
1st September – 31st December	1st January

What's next?

Where can I find a school or childcare provider?

Find your local registered school, nursery, pre-school or childminder on our Childcare Directory at:

walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

Contact your chosen childcare provider, find out if they have places available and arrange a visit. If you like them and want to register, show them your:

- child's birth certificate or passport
- eligibility code (if applicable)
- National Insurance number

Arrange a start date for your child to enjoy their free place! You can split the hours between two childcare providers if necessary.

For more guidance on what to ask, visit: walthamforest.gov.uk/childcarequestions

Contact Us

- Stuck on a waiting list?
- Can't find availability?
- Forgotten your code?
- Want to keep up to date with events and activities and would like to register for our **Parent Early Years Newsletter?**

Please email us at:

childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk

or ring: **020 8496 3566**

walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

What if I want to use more or fewer hours or my child is not ready?

You don't have to use all the hours you are entitled to. If you only want your child to go for a few hours a week, that's ok. Alternatively, you can pay for extra hours if you need! Please discuss with your childcare provider.

I'm not sure if my child is ready?

You can join them in a Stay 2 Play session – a safe, fun, stimulating environment. Learning through play with other children alongside their parents or carers with experienced professionals.

These sessions offer a range of activities allowing your child to paint, read, cook, climb, sing, dance, dress up, jump, run around... whatever they like doing!

To find out when and where these sessions are held, visit:

www.tlpcc.org.uk/events



How does it help our family?

- High-quality early education allows your child to have fun learning through play
- Research shows that a high-quality early learning environment helps prepare children for school
- You will have more time for appointments, work or studying
- You can relax knowing that your child is cared for safely by experienced professionals
- You can find out how to help your child with their learning at home.



What else is available for children under 5?

Children and Family Centres offer a wide range of **free** or low-cost activities, services and support to families with children under 5 – just come along and join in!

Services and activities include:

- early years education
- drop-in and play sessions for parents/carers and their children
- health services such as breast feeding support, baby clinics, nutrition and baby massage sessions
- jobs, career and training information
- money management and advice sessions
- speech and language development
- advice for children with additional needs
- family support and outreach services
- meet other parents and make new friends.

Find out what's on in your local area

Role Play, the timetable of Children and Family Centre activities, is available both online and at your local Children and Family Centre.

Visit: walthamforest.gov.uk/childrenandfamilycentres

Information available in other languages

For information in your language,
please visit **walthamforest.gov.uk/
childcare** and click on the 'SPEAK OR
TRANSLATE ME' button at the top of
the page or call us on the number below.

اپنی زبان میں معلومات حاصل کرنے کے لیے براہ
کرم **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** ملاحظہ
کریں اور صفحے کے سب سے اوپر موجود
'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' کے بٹن پر کلک
کریں یا مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ہمیں کال کریں۔

Pentru mai multe informații în limba
dvs., vizitați **walthamforest.gov.uk/
childcare** și faceți clic pe butonul
'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' din
partea de sus a paginii sau sunați-ne la
numărul de mai jos.

Jei norite gauti informacijos savo kalba,
apsilankykite **walthamforest.gov.uk/
childcare** ir spustelėkite puslapio viršuje
esantį mygtuką 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE
ME' arba paskambinkite mums žemiau
nurodytu numeriu.

Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi için
walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare
adresini ziyaret ederek sayfanın
üstündeki 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME'
butonuna tıklayabilir ya da aşağıdaki
telefon numarasından bizi arayabilirsiniz.

Aby uzyskać informacje w swoim języku,
odwiedź stronę **walthamforest.gov.uk/
childcare** i kliknij na przycisk 'SPEAK
OR TRANSLATE ME' na górze strony
lub zadzwoń pod numer podany poniżej.

SPEAK OR TRANSLATE 

For more information about Free Childcare and Early Learning for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds

visit: **walthamforest.gov.uk/
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Contact the Early Years and
Childcare Team
childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk

Helpline:
020 8496 3566

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