



Derby City Council

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Date	As delivered

Dear

Childcare funding is changing and for many working families this will make childcare more affordable. In the Spring budget, the government announced some significant changes to when and how you might be entitled to get some funded childcare hours. It is a bit confusing with different age children being able to access the offer at different times. This is why we are writing to you; we don't want you to miss out on any funding or childcare offers.

**From April 2024 – Two-year-old offer:**

If your child has their **second birthday** before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, you might be entitled to 570 hours of funded early years education and childcare per year. How many hours per week you use will be for you to agree with your childcare provider. You and your partner, if you live together, will both need to earn more than the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or minimum wage per week. For example, this means that over the next three months, you expect to earn at least £1,976 – the National Living Wage if you are 23 or older.

You must **apply for an eligibility code before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024** to take up the offer. Applications open on the 2 January 2024, and you will need to **revalidate your code every 3 months**.

**From September 2024 – Nine-month-old offer:**

If your child has reached **nine months** old on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024, you might be entitled to 570 hours of funded early years education and childcare per year. How many hours per week you use will be for you to agree with your childcare provider. You and your partner, if you live together, will both need to earn more than the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or minimum wage per week. This means that over the next three months, you expect to earn at least £1,976 – the National Living Wage if you are 23 or older.

You must **apply for an eligibility code before the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024** to take up the offer, and you will need to **revalidate your code every 3 months**.

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derby.gov.uk

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### **From September 2025 – Increased funded hours:**

If your child has reached **nine months** old on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 and is not yet attending school, then you might be eligible for 1140 hours of funded early years education and childcare per year. How many hours per week you use will be for you to agree with your childcare provider. You and your partner, if you live together, will both need to earn more than the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or minimum wage per week. This means that over the next three months, you expect to earn at least £1,976 – the National Living Wage if you are 23 or older.

You must **apply for an eligibility code before the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025** to take up the offer, and you will need to revalidate your code every 3 months.

### **How do I sign up for an eligibility code?**

You can apply for the new childcare offers on or after the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to find out more and complete your application.

To complete the application, you need to provide your name, address, and national insurance number. If you live with a partner, they need to provide the same information. HMRC will then decide whether your child is eligible for the new childcare offers as well as the existing offers such as 30 hours for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds and Tax-Free Childcare. More information on existing childcare offers can be found at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you are eligible, you will be given an 11-digit code that you will need to take to your early years provider along with your child's birth certificate.

Your provider will check that the code is valid, if it is, they will be able to book your child's place. Then you and your provider need to discuss what they can offer for your family. Some providers offer your funded hours over 38 weeks of the year (during school term time), and some let you use fewer hours over more weeks to cover the whole year, in Derby we call this a stretched offer.

**You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every three months and will receive a reminder text message or email from the government before the deadline.**

To find out what childcare funding offer is best for you why not visit the government childcare calculator:  
[https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator?utm\\_source=childcarechoices&utm\\_medium=microsite](https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator?utm_source=childcarechoices&utm_medium=microsite)

We hope that you find the information on the new childcare offers useful. Please contact us on 01332 640758 or email us at [fis@derby.gov.uk](mailto:fis@derby.gov.uk) if you need any further information or support.

Kind regards,

