



Stratton Playgroup

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FUNDING GUIDANCE LEAFLET October 2025

2-year-old Funding (for low-income families & some specific healthcare needs)

Some children may be entitled to this 2-year-old funding; applications need to be made via Cornwall Council's Citizen Portal, they will then approve up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week, if you or your child meet the criteria. Please click on the link, which will take you to the portal:

<https://cornwall.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/synergyweb/>

Please pass on your eligibility code to us via email.

15 hours Funding for all 3-4-year-olds

The term after a child turns 3, all children are entitled to up to 15 hours of Early Years funding; applications are made at the beginning of each term, by your childcare provider - by completing the required information on the Parent Declaration Forms; or whenever there are any changes to your funding requirements.

Working Families - extended funding

From **September 2025**, all eligible working parents of **9 months+-olds** will be able to access the extended entitlement funding for up to **30 hours per week** of education and care. This funding can be split between different childcare providers.

Once you have applied, please confirm your eligibility code & provide us with your national insurance number, so we can validate with the local authority.

THERE CAN BE DELAYS IN HMRC PROCESSING YOUR CODE - PLEASE APPLY AS SOON AS YOU CAN

You can do this on:

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the funding for working parents, you will need to meet the following criteria:

- They earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months.
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- Where a parent is in a "start-up period" (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If a non-EEA national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

Parents eligible for the extended entitlement are not obliged to take up the maximum 15/30 hours. Every three months, you will need to reconfirm that you are still eligible for additional free childcare.

You will receive an email from the government, prompting you to reconfirm, about a month before.

EYPP Funding

Some children may be entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding; applications are made by completing the required information on the Parent Declaration Forms - which we will pass on to you when your child starts, or whenever there are any changes to your funding requirements.

This is a valuable additional source of funding to us (it is worth around £570 per child per year) - this additional money could make a significant difference to your child's learning outcomes. Any parent, who thinks their child may be eligible, can have the appropriate details checked by Cornwall Council's Early Years Finance Team; again, applications are made by completing the required information on the Parent Declaration Forms - which we will pass on to you when your child starts, or whenever there are any changes to your funding requirements.

Tax-Free Childcare

At the same time as checking your eligibility for the working families extended entitlement, you can also apply for a Tax-Free Childcare account, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Questions

If you are unable to access the online application or get stuck applying for the 30 hours Funding or Tax-Free Childcare, please do not hesitate to ask for support?

Likewise, if you have any questions or are unsure about any of the above, please ask a member of staff and we will endeavour to find out the answers for you?

There are a lot of answers to many questions at:

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

