

Paying for childcare – your options



There are a range of Government schemes to help parents with the cost of childcare which may or may not be suitable for your needs, depending on your circumstances.

Universal Entitlement – 15 hours

- 15 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks.
- A total of 570 hours per year, that you can use flexibly with one or more childcare provider.
- Available for *all families* with 3- and 4-year-old children.
- Available for some families with 2-year-old children if you are in receipt of certain benefits – see our separate flyer for more information and to check if you are eligible.

Extended Entitlement – 30 hours

- 30 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks.
- A total of 1,140 hours per year, that you can use flexibly with one or more childcare provider.
- For working families.

Universal Credit for Childcare

- For working families claiming Universal Credit.
- You can claim back up to 85% of eligible childcare costs (up to £646 a month for one child, or £1,108 for two or more).
- You cannot be in receipt of Tax Credits (this is the scheme that Universal Credit replaced in 2019).

Tax Free Childcare

- For working families with each parent earning under £100k and at least £142 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage).
- You cannot be in receipt of Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers.
- For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2000 per child per year.

For more information about these schemes, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

To check eligibility for these schemes, please visit www.gov.uk/get-childcare.

We are more than happy to discuss these options with you prior to your child starting with us and to help you through the application process.

