

Parent Funding Brochure

Help with childcare costs:
your need-to-know guide

2023 



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Bright Horizons and You

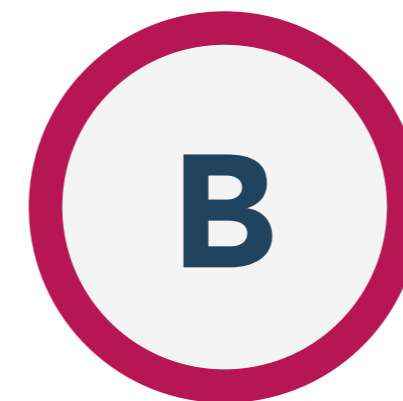
Our focus, every day, is the children entrusted into our care. But we're also here for our nursery parents and carers. What matters to you matters to us. We know from our conversations with families that the cost of living is a hot topic for everyone, particularly right now and we appreciate that childcare costs can be a source of worry. We are keen to help you to understand what government support is available for your childcare costs, and how to get it.

Here's our guide to funded hours and tax-free childcare: we hope you find it helpful.

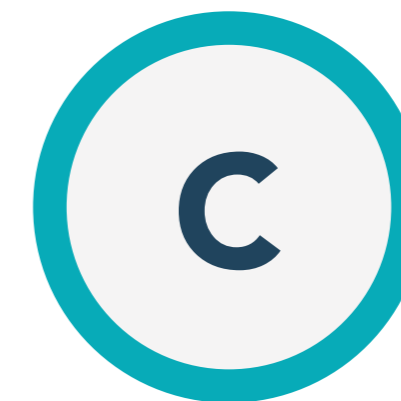
What's available?



Funded childcare
3 and 4-year olds
(All children)



Funded childcare
2-year olds
(Eligibility dependent)



Tax free childcare
vouchers
(Eligibility dependent)

Funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) or 1140 Hours Funding – what you need to know (**A** **B**)

A Funded childcare **3 and 4-year olds**

In Scotland, all children aged 3 years and over are eligible for up to 1140 hours of funded childcare per year.

Depending on which Local Authority your nursery is located in, funding is provided over 50 weeks (up to 22.8 hours per week), 51 weeks (up to 22.35 hours per week), or 52 weeks (up to 21.92 hours per week).

How do I get it?

Funding is usually available from the term after your child's 3rd birthday; however some Local Authorities can provide funding from the day after your child's 3rd birthday - your Nursery Manager will be able to advise you.

B Funded childcare **2-year olds**

You may be entitled for 1140 hours of funded ELC if your child is 2 years old or over and:

- They are looked after by a local council, the subject of a kinship care order, or the subject of a guardianship order.
- You receive one of these benefits:
 - Income Support
 - Job Seeker's Allowance (income based)
 - Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
 - Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
 - State Pension Credit
 - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you receive tax credits or universal credit, then you can earn a certain amount of money and still be eligible.

How do I get it?

If you think you are eligible for 2-year-old funded childcare you must first apply to your Local Authority. Depending on where you live you will do this either online or via a form which you can get from your Nursery Manager. If you are successful, your Local Authority will provide you with confirmation of eligibility (normally a letter or an email) which you give to the nursery directly.

Tax-free childcare (TFC) – Your Questions Answered

? Can I get TFC?

Yes, if you (and your partner) are working and earning more than national minimum wage but less than £100,000 a year.

? Can I use TFC at a Bright Horizons nursery?

Yes, you can! Bright Horizons is a government-approved provider, and all of our nurseries are registered with the Care Inspectorate, inspected by them regularly to ensure we provide the best quality of care and education.

Of course, you can also choose to use TFC to pay for a nanny, childminder or playscheme, as long as they are approved by the government. You can check if a childcare provider is approved at the government's childcare webpages.

? How does it work?

You open an online account through the government website which you use to pay for your childcare. *For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up an extra 20p.*

- So, for every pound you pay for your childcare, you're getting a 20% contribution from the government: this is equivalent of the tax most people pay - 20% - which is how the scheme got its name.
- The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child, per year (or £4,000 for disabled children).
- The scheme covers all your children, including adopted children, provided they live with you and are under the age of 12 years, (or 17 for children with disabilities).

? How do I apply?

If you've checked your eligibility and decided that the TFC scheme is right for you and your family, you can apply in about 20 minutes. You'll need your NI number (or if you're self-employed your Unique Taxpayer Reference) and if you have a partner you'll need theirs too.

? Does TFC work with my other benefits?

You can't use TFC if you're already claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, or Universal Credit. So, if you applied for Tax-Free Childcare and were accepted, your Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit would stop at once and you wouldn't be able to receive them again.

? What about TFC and Childcare Vouchers?

The TFC scheme was set up by the government to replace the Childcare Vouchers you could get from your employer. If you joined the Childcare Voucher scheme before 2018 you can continue to use it, but you can't use the TFC scheme at the same time.

A bright beginning for your child

Just imagine the fun your child could have, learning and exploring for over 1,000 hours at a warm, welcoming Bright Horizons nursery.

Your child will develop a life-long love of learning as our early years experts work with them through fun and play to discover their individual interests and passions, helping them to prepare for the future, right from the very start. We put our focus on wellbeing and happiness, supporting each child's development and progress.



Making “growing up” easier

Before you know it, it'll be time for school! We know how exciting – and slightly daunting – that can feel. But our preschool teams are here to help you, and your child, feel ready for that next exciting step.

Bright Horizons' Ready for School programme brings structure and focus to maths, reading, writing, and other essential skills your child needs to get ready for school.

Our staff will introduce your child to age-appropriate maths, reading, writing and art, and also focus on growing the life skills, knowledge, and confidence they'll need to be prepared for school and beyond.

Many families decide to increase their child's attendance at nursery at around 3 years old, since an increase in the number of days children attend at this age can help develop their social skills and prepare them for the transition to 'big school.'

The 1140 hours funding helps make that choice more affordable. Have a chat with us today and find out more.



Choosing the right nursery for your child



Your **Bright Horizons Family App!**
Updates on your child's day, straight to your pocket!

Now that you've seen what funding you can get, you will want to know what you get for your money. We'd love you to book a visit to one of our nurseries so we can show you all we have to offer. Thousands of families have chosen us to care for their child and help them on the first steps of their learning journey. Here's just a few reasons why:



Our nursery children love 'Candy Floss', our unique Health and Safety Superhero who was designed by our children, for our children. A blue-striped zebra with a highly important mission - Keeping Everyone Safe. Candy Floss accompanies the children throughout the day, reminding them to stay safe and healthy, and to learn how to safely assess risk for themselves.

Our Growing Enhancements relate to the core areas of Growing Readers, Growing Writers and Growing Mathematicians and are aligned to the national curriculum. Our staff take your child's natural interest and curiosity as a springboard to skilfully make learning fun and guide their activities. We use actions, experiences, and open-ended questions to stretch and challenge them in areas such as problem-solving, memory and information processing.



All children need a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet with a variety of textures and food types to help both their cognitive development and overall healthy growth. Our nursery menus are planned in consultation with professional nutritionists, and, in the majority of nurseries, food is cooked onsite every day by qualified chefs using fresh ingredients.

You can stay keep connected with us - and us with you - through our Bright Horizons Family App, giving you information in real time, at home or on the go. You'll also be able to view your child's nursery profile, to see what they've been learning and get status updates including mealtimes, nappy changes, room locations and more through the handy activity log. You'll even receive photos and videos of your little one, so you can be sure they're happy!



There's always so much to do and discover! From singing and music-making, forest schools, arts and crafts, baking, and trips to local amenities, your child's day will be packed with learning and fun.

Your Toolkit...

We hope that this guide has been a helpful introduction to childcare funding. Below we've put together some links to the key government sites that you'll need in order to apply for funding.

You can find out more about us using the links to the right. Please get in touch if you have any questions or want to learn more - we're here for you, every step of the way, and look forward to hearing from you.



Government webpages:

- [Scottish Government: Funded Early Learning and Childcare](#)
- [The Care Inspectorate: Finding an approved childcare provider](#)
- [Parent Club Scotland](#)

More help from Bright Horizons...



Find a Nursery



Events



Who we are



