

Nursery Education Grant

What funding is available for 9 to 23 months old, 2, 3 and 4 year olds?

9 to 23 months old funding

This funding is available for eligible working parents of 9 to 23 month old children. From September 2025 if you are a new applicant and are eligible or are currently in receipt of this funding and remain eligible, then working parents will be able to access 30 hours per week (term time only (TTO)) of funding.

NB: St Joseph's Pre-school accepts children from the age of 2.

Applications are via the Best Start in Life parent hub website (see link below).

When your child is 9 month old	Term eligible for funding	When to apply for funding
1 September to 31 December	Spring (1 January to 31 March 2019); - Terms 1 & 2	at least 14 working days before 31 August
1 January to 31 March	Summer (1 April to 31 August) - Terms 3 & 4	at least 14 working days before 31 December
1 April to 31 August	Autumn (1 September to 31 December) - Terms 5 & 6	at least 14 working days before 31 March

- 30 hours of childcare or early education for 38 weeks will be available;
- total of 1140 hours per year, that can be split between providers, but no more than 2 settings*.

*note that St Joseph's Pre-school are a TTO provider so there is no opportunity to "stretch" the funding - which you can do with a provider who is open all year.

If successful you will be issued with an 11 digit code – please inform the Treasury Administrator of this (stjosephpstreasad@gmail.com) – and you will then have 15 hours of early education over 38 weeks available for your child.

To apply please visit the Best Start in Life parent hub website. www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

NB: your eligibility code needs to be renewed every 3 months to ensure that your child continues to receive this funding during their time at Pre-school. *The sooner you apply for the funding the better, as claims can take 10+ working days to process.*

Note: if you remain eligible, then in the term after your child's 2nd birthday you will automatically transfer to the Working Parents 2 year old funding. Your child's eligibility code remains unchanged.

If you fail to renew your child's code or are no longer eligible, then your child will fall into a "Grace Period". The date that you were required to renew will affect whether your child's eligibility ends on the 31st of the current funding period or on the 31st for the following funding period. Thus once the "Grace Period" ends you will be charged for any hours that are not funded at the Pre-school's normal hourly rate (see Policy 4.10 Payment of Fees).

There are two possible sources of funding available for 2 year olds. Namely:
Working Parents 2 year old funding

Available for all eligible working parents. As with 9 to 23 months old funding, from September 2025 if you are successful or remain eligible, then working parents will be able to access 30 hours per week (TTO) of funding.

Applications are via the Best Start In Life parent hub website (see link below).

- A 2 year old child will be eligible for funding in the term after their 2nd birthday;

Child's 2 nd birthday	Term eligible for funding	When to apply for funding
1 September to 31 December	Spring (1 January to 31 March 2019); - Terms 1 & 2	at least 14 working days before 31 August
1 January to 31 March	Summer (1 April to 31 August) - Terms 3 & 4	at least 14 working days before 31 December
1 April to 31 August	Autumn (1 September to 31 December) - Terms 5 & 6	at least 14 working days before 31 March

- 30 hours of childcare or early education for 38 weeks will be available;
- A total of 1140 hours per year, that can be used flexibly with one or more childcare provider* (NB: no more than 2 settings).

*note that St Joseph's Pre-school are a TTO provider so there is no opportunity to "stretch" the funding - which you can do with a provider who is open all year.

If successful you will be issued with an 11 digit code – please inform the Treasury Administrator of this (stjosephpstreasad@gmail.com) – and you will then have up to 15 hours of early education over 38 weeks available for your child.

To apply please visit the Best Start in Life parent hub website. www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

NB: your eligibility code needs to be renewed every 3 months to ensure that your child continues to receive this funding during their time at Pre-school. *The sooner you apply for the funding the better, as claims can take 10+ working days to process.*

NB: If your child is in receipt of this funding and you, as working parents, remain eligible, then you will automatically move onto 30 hours (15 hours universal plus 15 hours extended), from the funding term after your child's 3rd birthday. Eligible parents just need to keep reconfirming the code as normal and it will become usable to claim 30 hours (the actual code remains the same).

If you fail to renew your child's code or are no longer eligible, then your child will fall into a "Grace Period". The date that you were required to renew will affect whether your child's eligibility ends on the 31st of the current funding period or on the 31st for the following funding period. Thus once the "Grace Period" ends you will be charged for any hours that are not funded at the Pre-school's normal hourly rate (see Policy 4.10 Payment of Fees).

OR

Early Learning for Two Year Olds (EL2YO) Funding
[Click here to access Gloucestershire County Council's website](#)

Your 2 year old can get free childcare if you live in England and claim one of the following benefits:

- Income support;
- income-based job seekers allowance (JSA);
- income-related employment and support allowance (ESA);
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments;
- the guaranteed element of State Pensions Credit;
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax;
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (support for asylum seekers);
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Families may also be entitled to the funding if they meet one of the following criteria:

- the child has a statement of special educational needs¹ a SEND My Plan +;
- the child has an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP)²;
- the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance³; or
- the child is in the care of the Local Authority (ie. Gloucestershire County Council)⁴, they have left care through special guardianship order, child arrangement order or adoption order⁵.

The number of funded hours available for funded childcare is 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of year, ie. TTO. If eligible, funding would be available the term after the child's 2nd birthday (as per table in "working parents 2 year old funding" section).

Parents can apply for this funding source via the following link: [2-year-old-funding for families receiving additional forms of support | Early Years Service](#). This is done via Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC) Citizen portal (www.gcca2yofunding.com), enter your details and if you are entitled you will be given a reference number and email. You will need your National Insurance Number to check eligibility.

If you are unable to access the portal or wish to find out more, contact the Family Information Service on 01452 427362

If you are successful in attaining 2 year old funding for your child, then please email St Joseph's Pre-school's Treasury Administrator (stjosephpstreasad@gmail.com) the confirmation email you receive from GCC. This will have a unique reference number for your child and funding application (starting with "TYF-") together with a start date for the funding. Upon receipt, our Treasury Administrator will furnish you with the information and documents

¹ Section 324 of the Education Act 1996

² Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014

³ Section 71 of the Social Security and Contributions and Benefits Act 1992

⁴ Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989

⁵ Within the meaning of Section 8(1) of the Children Act 1989

required to enable the Pre-school to receive said funding for your child whilst they are in attendance at the setting.

Once funding is confirmed by Gloucestershire County Council, note that your child remains eligible for the Early Learning for 2 Year Olds entitlement even if the family's circumstances change. The funding remains in place until the child becomes eligible for the free 3 year old funding (15 hours universal entitlement).

NB: Parents who can claim 15 hours EL2YO may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours under the Working Parents 2 Year Old Funding. If successful this will mean that eligible parents have:

- 30 hours of childcare or early education for 38 weeks will be available;
- A total of 1140 hours per year that can be used flexibly with one or more childcare provider* (NB: no more than 2 settings).

*note that St Joseph's Pre-school are a TTO provider so there is no opportunity to "stretch" the funding - which you can do with a provider who is open all year.

If successful you will be issued with an 11 digit code – please inform the Treasury Administrator of this (stjosephpstreasad@gmail.com) – and you will then have up to 15 hours of early education over 38 weeks available for your child.

To apply please visit the Best Start in Life parent hub website. www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

NB: your eligibility code needs to be renewed every 3 months to ensure that your child continues to receive this funding during their time at Pre-school. *The sooner you apply for the funding the better, as claims can take 10+ working days to process.*

Funding for 3 & 4 year olds

There are two possible sources of funding available for 3 year olds. Namely:

All 3 year olds

From the term after your child's 3rd birthday, they will automatically be entitled to receive 15 hours (universal) entitlement to use. This funding is available for 38 weeks per year and can be used flexibly with one or more childcare provider*.

- 15 hours of childcare or early education for 38 weeks will be available;
- A total of 570 hours per year, that can be used flexibly with one or more childcare provider*.

*note that St Joseph's Pre-school are a TTO provider so there is no opportunity to "stretch" the funding - which you can do with a provider who is open all year.

St Joseph's Pre-school's Treasury Administrator will ensure that you receive the relevant Parent Declaration Form prior to the start of the term you child becomes eligible.

3 & 4 year olds of working parents

Working parents can apply for an additional 15 hours (extended) entitlement prior to the term that their child becomes eligible for the 15 hours (universal) entitlement. This entitlement, like the "Working parents 2 year old funding" is income related. If successful you will be issued with an 11 digit code – please inform the Treasury Administrator of this (stjosephpstreasad@gmail.com) – and you will then have up to 30 hours of early education over 38 weeks available for your child.

NB: If you are already in receipt of "Working parents 2 year old funding" and you remain eligible, you will be automatically moved onto the 30 hours from the funding term after your child's 3rd birthday. You (parents), just need to keep reconfirming the code as normal and it will become usable to claim 30 hours (the actual code remains the same).

Child's 3rd birthday	Term eligible for funding	When to apply for funding
1 September to 31 December	Spring (1 January to 31 March 2019); - Terms 1 & 2	at least 14 working days before 31 August
1 January to 31 March	Summer (1 April to 31 August) - Terms 3 & 4	at least 14 working days before 31 December
1 April to 31 August	Autumn (1 September to 31 December) - Terms 5 & 6	at least 14 working days before 31 March

St Joseph's Pre-school's Treasury Administrator will ensure that you receive the relevant Parent Declaration Form prior to the start of the term you child becomes eligible.

Note: St Joseph's Pre-school are a TTO provider so there is no opportunity to "stretch" the funding - which you can do with a provider who is open all year.

To apply please visit the Best Start in Life parent hub website. www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

NB: your eligibility code needs to be renewed every 3 months to ensure that your child continues to receive this funding during their time at Pre-school. *The sooner you apply for the funding the better, as claims can take 10+ working days to process.*

Renewing eligibility codes

Your child's code needs to be renewed every 3 months. You will receive 3 reminders from HMRC to reconfirm the code, ie.

- *first reminder:* sent approximately 4 weeks before the code expires;
- *second reminder:* sent 2 weeks before; and
- *final reminder:* sent on the expiry date.

The Treasury Administrator will also endeavour to remind you to renew your child's code. But the onus is really on you as the child's parent/carer.

Note that if you apply for a funding code after the deadline date (31 August (re Autumn term), 31 December (re Spring term) or 31 March (re Summer term)), then the code will not be valid until the following funding period.

If you fail to renew your child's code or are no longer eligible, then your child will fall into a "Grace Period". The date that you were required to renew will affect whether your child's eligibility ends on the 31st of the current funding period or on the 31st for the following funding period. Thus once the "Grace Period" ends you will be charged for any hours that are not funded at the Pre-school's normal hourly rate (see Policy 4.10 Payment of Fees).