

Give your child the...

# Best Start in Life



## FREE Childcare and Early Learning for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds

[walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare](https://walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare)

[childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk)

020 8496 3566



Waltham Forest

# What is on offer for 2-year-olds?

## 15 hours free childcare

Almost a quarter of families with a 2-year-old child can claim up to **15 hours of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)** per week during term time or 570 hours across the year. **Apply now at:**

**walthamforest.gov.uk/  
childcare**

Create your account and apply online to get your eligibility code and letter, take it along with your child's birth certificate to your school or childcare provider. **Only providers with a Good or Outstanding Ofsted rating can provide FEEE places.**

## Need help?

**Contact the Childcare Team**  
**childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk**  
**020 8496 3566**



**Your 2-year-old will be eligible if your family gets one of the following benefits:**

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the Working Tax Credit 4 week run on

**If you're not receiving any benefits, your 2-year-old can qualify if they:**

- have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan)
- get Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- are looked after by a local authority or have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangement order or adoption order in England or Wales.

**If you're a non-EEA citizen who cannot claim benefits and your immigration status says you have 'no recourse to public funds', you may still get free childcare for your 2 year old if your household income is no more than:**

- £34,500 for families within London with one child
- £38,600 for families within London with two or more children

# What is on offer for 3 & 4 year olds?

## 15 hours free childcare and early learning from the term after your child turns 3

All families are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare and early learning per week term time, or 570 hours across the whole year. Just contact your preferred school or childcare provider to apply directly. Contact the Childcare Team for assistance in finding a place, or visit the Childcare Directory at:

[walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare](http://walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare)

## 30 hours free childcare

Working families (including foster families\*) earning at least £152 a week or more could get an extra 15 hours of free childcare – a total of 30 hours per week term time or 1140 hours across the whole year. \* Subject to foster child's care plan

## Tax-free childcare from 0–12\*

Working families in the UK with children under 12 (\*or under 17 if disabled) can apply. For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 per year for a child registered as disabled.

## Find out more about 30 hours and Tax-free childcare

Visit [childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://childcarechoices.gov.uk) to set up a Tax-Free Childcare account and apply for your 30 hours eligibility code. Call the HMRC childcare helpline 0300 123 4097

### Did you know that...?

Tax-Free Childcare can be used at Ofsted registered childcare providers including nannies.

## Contact Us

- Stuck on a waiting list?
- Can't find availability?
- Forgotten your code?

[childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk)

or ring: 020 8496 3566



## Important

If you're claiming 30 hours\* free childcare, **you must apply and receive your eligibility code before the term begins.** If you do not get this in time, you will need to wait until the next term. 30 hour codes need reconfirming every three months.

# What's next?

## Where can I find a school or childcare provider?

**Did you know that...?**

In August 2022 95% of childcare providers in Waltham Forest are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

Find local registered school, nurseries, pre-schools or childminders on our Childcare Directory at:  
[walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare](http://walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare)

Contact your chosen childcare provider, find out if they have places available and arrange a visit. If you like them and want to register, show them your:

- child's birth certificate or passport
- eligibility code (if applicable)
- National Insurance number

Arrange a start date for your child to enjoy their free place! You can split the hours between two childcare providers if necessary.

# What if I want to use more or fewer hours?

You don't have to use all free hours you are entitled to. If you only want your child to go for a few hours a week, that's okay. You can also pay for extra hours if you need! Please discuss with your childcare provider.

**Did you know that...?**

You can stretch your free hours over 52 weeks and also use them during school holidays.

# I'm not sure if my child is ready

You can take your child to a number of free Story and Play sessions provided as part of the Best Start in Life Offer. For more details, see the "What else is available for children under 5?" section.



## When to apply?

All children are eligible for 15 hours of free childcare, (or 30 hours if eligible) from the term after they turn 3.

If your child is eligible for the 2 year old funding, then they can start the term after they turn 2. Find out from your chosen provider how and when to apply.

Birthday is between:	Start date from:
1st April – 31st August	1st September
1st January – 31st March	1st April
1st September – 31st December	1st January

**Did you know that...?**

Waiting lists can be long, it is good idea to start looking for childcare 6 to 12 months in advance.

## How does it help our family?

- High-quality early education allows your child to have fun learning through play
- Research shows that a high-quality early learning environment helps prepare children for school
- You will have more time for appointments, work or studying
- You can relax knowing that your child is cared for safely by experienced professionals
- You can find out how to help your child with their learning at home.



## What else is available for children under 5?

You can take your child to a number of free Story and Play sessions provided as part of the Best Start in Life Offer. Just come along and join in!

These are fun, stimulating and interactive sessions for all under five to play, learn and socialise with other children. These sessions will support children's development by providing a range of activities such as stories, rhymes, singing, dance, arts, crafts and physical activities which support their development around communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. There are also skilled staff available to provide advice and information about ways in which you can extend your child's learning at home and signpost you to other services to support your family.

## Find out what's on in your local area

You can find full details of the Best Start in Life offer as well as the timetable and subscribe for the Best Start in Life Newsletter at: [walthamforest.gov.uk/beststartinlife](https://walthamforest.gov.uk/beststartinlife) to keep up to date with events and activities.

# Information available in other languages



For information in your language, please visit **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** and click on the 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' button at the top of the page or call us on the number below.

اپنی زبان میں معلومات حاصل کرنے کے لیے براہ کرم **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** ملاحظہ کریں اور صفحے کے سب سے اوپر موجود 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' کے بٹن پر کلک کریں یا مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ہمیں کال کریں۔

Pentru mai multe informații în limba dvs., vizitați **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** și faceți clic pe butonul 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' din partea de sus a paginii sau sunați-ne la numărul de mai jos.

Jei norite gauti informacijos savo kalba, apsilankykite **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** ir spustelėkite puslapio viršuje esantį mygtuką 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' arba paskambinkite mums žemiau nurodytu numeriu.

Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi için **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** adresini ziyaret ederek sayfanın üstündeki 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' butonuna tıklayabilir ya da aşağıdaki telefon numarasından bizi arayabilirsiniz.

Aby uzyskać informacje w swoim języku, odwiedź stronę **walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare** i kliknij na przycisk 'SPEAK OR TRANSLATE ME' na górze strony lub zadzwoń pod numer podany poniżej.

