

Give your child the...

Best Start in Life



**Free Early Learning
and Childcare for
children aged 9
months to 4 years old**

walthamforest.gov.uk/beststartinlife

childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk

020 8496 3566



What is on offer for under-2s?

Up to 30 hours childcare for working families

From **April 2024**, working families with 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours a week of childcare support.

From **September 2025** this will be increased to **30 hours a week**.

Am I eligible?

Parents and carers (both parents in two-parent households; the sole parent in one-parent households) must each be working at least 16 hours per week at at least minimum wage, and each must earn under £100,000. Apply on **childcarechoices.gov.uk**

Up to 30 hours childcare for working families

From **September 2024**, working families with children aged 9 months and over will be entitled to **15 hours** of free childcare and early learning per week in term time.

From **September 2025** this will increase to **30 hours a week**.

Am I eligible?

Parents and carers (both parents in two-parent households; the sole parent in one-parent households) must each be working at least 16 hours per week at at least minimum wage, and each must earn under £100,000. Apply on **childcarechoices.gov.uk**

What is on offer for 2-year-olds?

15 hours childcare for families receiving certain government support

If you are in receipt of certain benefits and/or on low income, you can claim up to 15 hours of childcare and early learning per week during term time or 570 hours across the year. Apply now at:

walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

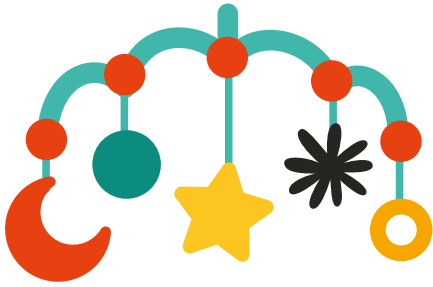
Create your account and apply online to get your eligibility code and letter then take it along with your child's birth certificate to your school or childcare provider.

Only providers with a Good or Outstanding Ofsted rating can provide funded 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 childcare and early learning for all 3- and- 4 year olds

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 (see details towards the end of this flyer) for assistance in finding a place, or visit the Childcare Directory at:

walthamforest.gov.uk/childcare

30 hours childcare for working families

Working families (including foster families) earning at least £182 a week could get an extra 15 hours of free childcare – a total of 30 hours per week in term time or 1,140 hours across the whole year. Apply on

childcarechoices.gov.uk

What's next?

Where can I find a school or childcare provider?

Find local registered school, nurseries, pre-schools or childminders on our Childcare Directory at:

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.

Did you know?

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



Important

If you're claiming childcare for working families, **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. Working families' childcare codes need reconfirming every three months. This doesn't apply to 2-year-old families in receipt of certain government support.

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.

When to apply?

All eligible children can take up their funded childcare hours from the term after their birthday. 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

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

Did you know?

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

Did you know?

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

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 tax-free childcare

Visit childcarechoices.gov.uk to set up a Tax-Free Childcare account to apply. Call the HMRC childcare helpline on **0300 123 4097**.

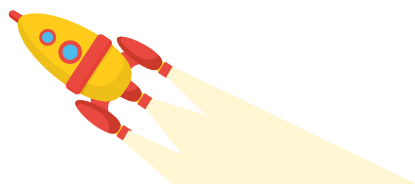
Did you know?

Tax-free childcare can be used at Ofsted-registered childcare providers, including nannies.

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.

Childcare Choices



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.

Contact Us

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

childcare@walthamforest.gov.uk
or call: **020 8496 3566**



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-5s 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 and timetable and subscribe to the Best Start in Life newsletter at:
walthamforest.gov.uk/beststartinlife

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.

SPEAK OR TRANSLATE 

