

Chalkhouse Childcare Services

PARENT FUNDING GUIDE



2024

Help with childcare costs:
everything you need to know

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Funding overview

At Chalkhouse we understand that the current economic climate, with the cost of living continuing to rise, can be extremely challenging and cause a great amount of worry and stress.

With this in mind, we are always looking to help our families with the cost of childcare in any way we can, including government funded hours and tax-free childcare.

We put together this guide because we understand that the various government support options can be complex and a little daunting, especially if you're a new parent who hasn't done it before!

Hopefully this will answer all your questions on what we cover and how to apply. If there is anything you are still unsure of please feel free to contact us by email.

Kidmore End

chalkhouse@live.co.uk

Earley

enquiries@chalkhousenursery.co.uk

Thames Valley Park

info@chalkhousewaterside.com



Funded hours

The government offers a number of funding options to help with the costs of childcare.

Full information, along with eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

The main funding options, all of which are offered at Chalkhouse, are below:

15 HOURS 3-4 YR CHILDCARE (universal) - 38 weeks (570 hours) per year

All parents in England are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare for children aged between 3-4 years. Funding commences from the term after the child's 3rd birthday and runs until they start school. To apply, just let us know that you want to use your 15 funded hours with us and we will send you a funding form to fill in. We charge a small fee on 3-4 year childcare for extra services not covered by government funding (see page 10 for details).



Funded hours (cont.)

30 HOURS 3-4 YR CHILDCARE (working families) - 38 weeks (1140 hours) per year

Eligible working families in England are entitled to an additional 15 hours of funded childcare (30 hours in total) for children aged between 3-4 years. Funding commences from the term after the child's 3rd birthday and runs until they start school. You can check your eligibility and apply through the government's Childcare Choices website (this usually takes around 20 mins). If you are eligible you will receive a funding code for the additional 15 hours which you will need to provide to us.

15 HOURS 2 YR CHILDCARE - 38 weeks (570 hours) per year

From April 2024, eligible working families in England are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare (increasing to 30 hours in September 2025) for 2-year-olds. Funding commences from the term after the child's 2nd birthday until they are 3. You will just need to send us your funding code to confirm eligibility.



Funded hours (cont.)

15 HOURS 9-23 MTH CHILDCARE (working families) - 38 weeks (1140 hours) per year

From September 2024, eligible working families in England are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare (increasing to 30 hours in September 2025) for 9-23 month-olds.

Funding commences from the term following the child turning 9 months old until they are 2. You will just need to send us your funding code to confirm eligibility.

15 HOURS 2 YR CHILDCARE (additional needs) - 38 weeks (570 hours) per year

Some parents of families with additional needs will also be eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare for 2-year-olds. If you are in receipt of certain benefits, such as Universal Credit or Income Support, or your child has Disability Living Allowance or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, you may be eligible to get 15 funded hours for your child.



Funded hours (cont.)

To apply for 15-hour 2-year-old funding for families with additional needs, you'll need to speak to someone at your local council and then provide us with proof of your eligibility.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER AROUND FUNDING:

- Funding applies to 38 weeks (term-time) of the year. The remaining weeks (school holidays) are charged at the full rate. When you apply for funding with us we will work out a quote for you based on 38 weeks funded and 12 weeks (we are open for 50 weeks of the year) non-funded; this amount will then be divided by 12 to give a fixed monthly amount that doesn't change throughout the year (rather than increasing during school holiday months). At Chalkhouse, we do not offer term-time only contracts so all quotes are based on a 50-week year.



Funded hours (cont.)

- If you do not use your full 15 or 30 funded hours each week, we can stretch the funding for you and put the remaining hours towards the non-funded (school holiday) weeks.
- If your child attends for more than their 15 or 30 hours each week, your monthly payment will be made up of a combination of funded and non-funded hours.
- We charge a small fee for extra services not covered by government funding (see page 10 for more details) on the 3-4 year childcare. We do not currently apply this fee to the 9-23 month old or 2-year-old childcare.



Changes to funding

In March 2023, the government announced some changes to increase access to funded hours from April 2024. The phased roll-out of these changes has now begun and will conclude in September 2025.

Summary of changes

- In April 2024, eligible working families of children aged 2 will receive 15 hours of funded childcare. Previously, 2-yr funding was only available to families with additional needs.
- In September 2024, eligible working families of children aged 9-23 months will also receive 15 hours of funded childcare.
- By September 2025, all eligible children aged from 9 months to school age will receive 30 hours of funded childcare.



Extra services

At Chalkhouse we provide a wide range of extra services, enriching experiences and learning activities which all help to ensure that our setting is a fun and stimulating environment for your little ones. These extras are not covered by government funding so we will ask you to pay a small fee for these.

MEALS

At Chalkhouse we know our brains run on our tummies. That's why we have an experienced on-site chef providing nutritionally balanced, homely meals that our little ones love to eat. We regularly ask children and parents for their input to ensure our meals remain interesting and appealing, and our chef is always on hand to chat to parents about any special dietary requirements your little one may have.



Extra services (cont.)



ACTIVITIES

Providing a varied and exciting curriculum for our little ones is extremely important to us at Chalkhouse, so we are always looking to deliver fun, themed learning opportunities. We offer a range of craft activities, sensory experiences, physical challenges and independent play opportunities which allow our little ones to get the most out of their learning.

Some of the activities we provide are:

Forest School

Mark-making

Phonics sessions

School prep sessions

BilinguaSing

Baking



Extra services (cont.)

TOILETRIES

As part of keeping your children safe and healthy, we provide baby wipes, facial tissues and PPE. We also have a range of potty training aids to help support your child achieve independence with toileting. This is another way we ensure our children are school-ready.

LEARNING BOOK

Accessible by mobile or PC, our Learning Book app and developmental reporting system keeps you updated on your child's development through photos, videos and audio collections. The app also allows our team to track, report and assess development and feed-back to parents.



Extra services (cont.)

DEDICATED CARE

We provide qualified, experienced team members who are regularly supervised and offered up-to-date training to ensure our little ones get the best possible experience. As we work regularly on a higher staff-to-child ratio, this allows us to support all the children as individuals.

If you would like to book a visit to see what we have to offer, please scan the QR code



Tax-free childcare (TFC)

Tax-free childcare is available for working families, including the self-employed, in the UK. To qualify, you must be earning **under £100k** and **an average of £167** per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each over three months.

How does it work?

You will need to open an online account through the government Childcare Choices website which you use to pay for your childcare. For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up an extra 20p. The government will top up the account up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child, per year.

You can't use TFC if you're already claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.



Useful links

Childcare
Choices



www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare
Calculator



www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator

Apply for tax-free childcare

www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare



 **GOV.UK**



Vouchers and discounts

At Chalkhouse we accept Computershare and Edenred childcare vouchers.



If you belong to any other voucher schemes please let us know.

We also offer the following discounts:

5% discount when your child attends full-time (5 full days per week)

10% sibling discount



**Thank you for taking the time to read
this guide.**

**If you have any other questions
please do not hesitate to contact us.**

