



Project 17
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Nursery Entitlement

3- and 4-year olds

All children of this age are entitled to 15 hours' free childcare per year.

3 and 4-year-olds whose parents are working (and making at least the minimum National Insurance contributions) may be eligible for 30 hours of free early education. However, this eligibility does not extend to those who are subject to immigration control (including those with Limited Leave to Remain and undocumented migrants). However, if a parent has a partner who is entitled to apply and who has recourse to public funds then they may make the application instead.

2-year-olds

2-year-olds in England may qualify for 15 hours' free childcare per year if they are in a household which receives one or more qualifying benefits, such as Income Support. A full list of qualifying criteria can be found [here](#).

2-year-olds in families with no recourse to public funds

The Department for Education has permanently extended eligibility for the two-year-old early education entitlement to children in households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to maximum income thresholds.

Under the permanent extension eligibility to all NRPF groups, the annual household income thresholds for those families able to work are:

- £26,500 for families outside of London with 1 child
- £30,600 for families outside of London with 2 or more children
- £34,500 for families within London with 1 child
- £38,600 for families within London with 2 or more children

This is subject to on-going litigation. For more information, please check the [government guidance](#).

Children whose families are in receipt of section 4 asylum support will automatically qualify, regardless of income.

When can an eligible child enrol?

Any eligible child can enrol in the school term after their 2nd birthday.