

Help with the costs of childcare



You can get help with childcare costs for children under 18. You might be able to apply for:

Tax-Free Childcare

Support to cover the costs of childcare for working families of children 0-11 (and up to 16 for young people with special educational need or disability SEND). You set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2. You can get up to £2,000 a year (£4,000 a year for young people with SEND) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare.

You cannot use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. You can use it alongside the free entitlement to 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds.

Tax credits

If you already claim tax credits, you can add an extra amount of Working Tax Credit to help cover the cost of childcare.

Universal credit

You may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit.

You can find out more about what help would best suit your needs at Childcare Choices

www.gov.uk/childcarechoices

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

If your child (in reception to Year 11 inclusive) is eligible for benefit related free school meals you can access childcare in the holidays through the HAF programme.

Additional local criteria apply Find out more at www.brent.gov.uk/haf



Free early education – what is it?

Free early education and childcare gives your child a funded place with an Ofsted-registered childcare provider. Children can access between 15 and 30 funded hours per week for the equivalent of 38 weeks of the year (during school term time). Some providers may support families to take fewer hours each week across more than 38 weeks – this is called the 'stretched entitlement'.

- All 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education.
- Some 2-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours if their family receives certain benefits or additional support (for example, families on low incomes, children with SEND, children in care, or those who have left care).
- Children aged 9 months up to 4 years may be entitled to up to 30 hours of free childcare, provided each parent (or the sole parent in a single-parent household) earns at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at minimum or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year.

Children can access the above the term after they reach the relevant age.

Free early education – what are the benefits?

Research shows that attending quality early education can help children:

- understand and manage their emotions,
- improve their communication and language skills,
- learn social skills and make friends,
- be ready for school.

Free early education – how can I find out more?

For more information and details of eligibility criteria, visit:

www.brent.gov.uk/childcare

Email: **cfis@brent.gov.uk**

Telephone: **0208 937 3010**

To find out more about the wider support available to your family please visit a Brent Family Wellbeing-Centre **www.brent.gov.uk/familywellbeingcentres**

