



Together 
for Families

Childcare and The Early Years in Cornwall



January 2024

 www.cornwall.gov.uk

'The best start in life'- why use early years education for your child?



A high quality early years education is vitally important. Children attend early years provision at a crucial developmental point in their lives. The education and care that they receive affects not only future educational attainment but also their future health and happiness. [Best start in life part 1: setting the scene - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-start-in-life-part-1-setting-the-scene)

What types of childcare are there?

Childminders are providers who care for children in their homes.

[What is a childminder? How to find a childminder?](#)

[- BBC Tiny Happy People](#)





How to choose a group setting; pre-school, nursery or school based setting

[How to choose a nursery:](#)
[Questions to ask when](#)
[choosing childcare - BBC](#)
[Tiny Happy People](#)



Where is the childcare?
How much does it cost?
Can I use my funded
childcare hours?
Have the staff been
trained?
Do I feel my child will be
safe and well cared for?

What to expect in the Early Years

This guide is for parents of children from birth to five years old. It will help you find out more about your child's learning and development in the EYFS.



<https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

My Child has additional needs how can I access a setting and get support?



- Visit the settings in your locality
- Talk about your child's needs and how they can be supported
- Inform the setting of the professionals who are already supporting
- Work together to consider what transition should look like
- Discuss how your child learns and what would help them to achieve their potential

Remember you know your child best and will know what setting is right for them

Useful sites for support

<https://parentcarerscornwall.org.uk/>

<https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/>

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/>



What funding is available for my child?

In the United Kingdom, the government provides funding to help families access high-quality early education and childcare services. This funding is available for eligible children through three main schemes:

- Up to 15 hours funding for two-year-olds who meet certain criteria.
- Up to 15 hours funding for all three and four-year-old children – also known as the Universal Entitlement
- Up to 30 hours funding for three and four-year-old children of working families who meet certain criteria - also known as the Extended Entitlement

The funding is available during term-time (38 weeks per year), and you can usually choose when and how to use these hours to suit your needs. Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over 51 weeks, using fewer hours per week. You will need to speak to your provider to find out what they are able to offer.

To check if you are eligible, please click here:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



Not sure what support **you** could get with childcare costs? Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare
Choices


HM Government



When will the new entitlements start?

In March 2023, the government announced new entitlements to support working families which are being introduced in three stages:

Coming Soon

From April 2024 – Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a 2-year-old.

From Sept 2024 – Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a child between 9 and 23 months

From Sept 2025 – Up to 30 hours for eligible working families in England with a child from 9 months old up to school age.



When can my Child take-up their place?

Your child can access a funded place the term after they reach the correct age.

If your child is 2, 3 or 4 years old

A child born between:	If eligible, can access funding from
1st April and 31st August	1st September
1st September and 31st December	1st January
1st January and 31st March	1st April

If your child is under 2 years old

A child born in:	If eligible, can access funding from
December, January, February, March	1st January
April, May, June	1st April
July, August, September, October, November	1st September

You will also need to apply for a code (if required) before your child can start.

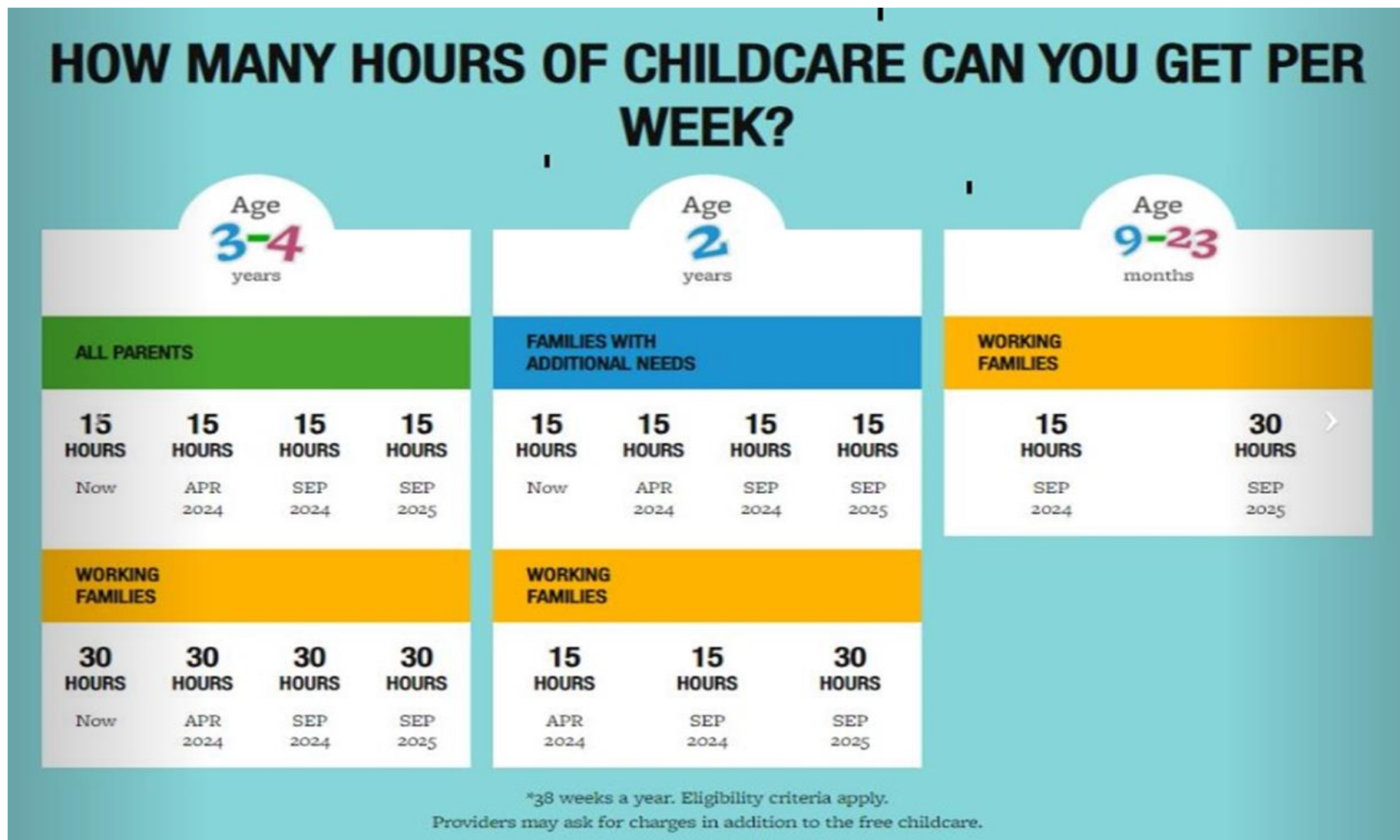


How do I apply and get a code?

Age of Child	Who is this for?	Do I need a Code?	Where do I apply?
2 years	For families in England, receiving some additional forms of government support	Yes	https://cornwall.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/synergyweb/Criteria.aspx
3&4 years	For ALL families in England	No	No application required
3&4 years	For eligible working families in England	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working
2 years	For eligible working families in England	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working
9-23 months	For eligible working families in England	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working



How many hours of Childcare can I get each week?





Family Information Service Office

The service is based in Cornwall's Multi-agency Early Help Hub and operates a telephone helpline Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm alongside digital support.

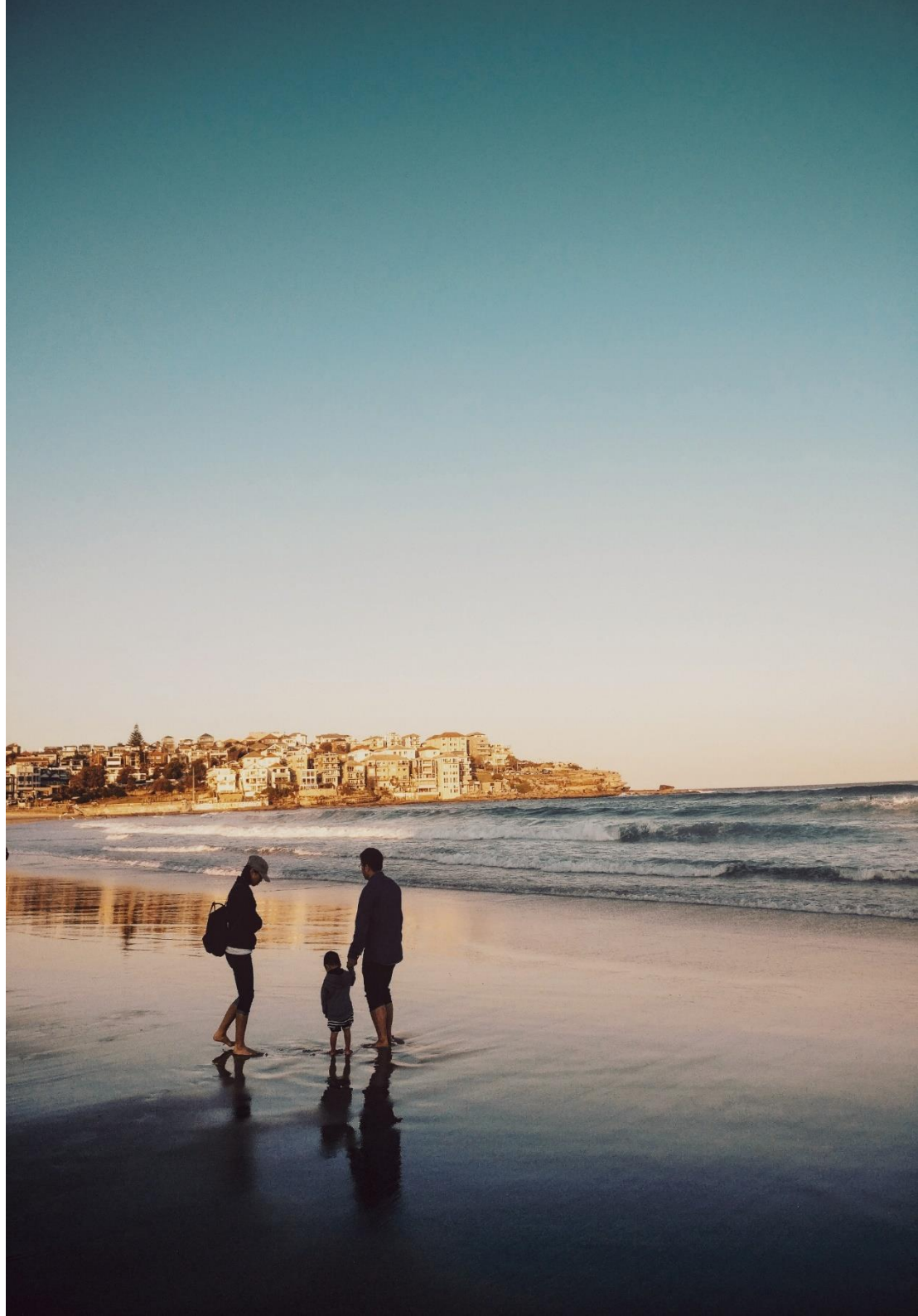
Contact us-

0800 5878191

01872 323535

fis@cornwall.gov.uk

Fis.cornwall.gov.uk





Family Information Service Statutory Responsibilities

- Establish and maintain services providing information, advice and assistance. The information falls within two key categories:
 - Information about childcare
 - Registered/Non-registered childcare
 - The free entitlement to early years provision
 - Childcare settings suitable for children with SEND
 - Run a brokerage service for parents finding it difficult to access the childcare provision they need
 - Information about other services, facilities or publications which may be of benefit to parents, prospective parents, children or young people.
- Duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment.
- Every local authority shall open and maintain a register for disabled children within their area.
- To publish education, health, social care and voluntary/community sector provision for children and young people with SEND. This is the Local Offer.



Information, Advice, and Guidance

The Family Information Service is the place to find details of all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Cornwall.

We can provide parents and carers with information on:

- Childminders
- Day nurseries
- Pre-school playgroups
- School nursery units / classes
- Breakfast clubs / after school clubs
- Holiday schemes
- Activities for children, young people and their families

Answer childcare related questions:

- What childcare funding is available?
- Where can I use my two-, three- or four-year-old funding?
- What should I ask when choosing childcare?
- What can we do as a family?
- Do I qualify for tax credits and other funding?
- I'm struggling to complete my school application form.
- My child has an additional need, I need help with...
- Where is my local Family Hub?



Family Information Service Directory

The team maintain Cornwall's comprehensive Family Information Service Directory which enables families and professionals to self-access a wide variety of information as below:

- ♥ Cornwall's Local offer in relation to SEND
- ♥ Childcare provider information
- ♥ School Admissions information and the appeals process
- ♥ Information on services and activities for children, young people and their families



SEND Local Offer

On the website you will find the SEND Local Offer. Our Local Offer sets out, in one place information about the support and provision that families can expect for children and young people aged 0 – 25 with special education needs and/or disabilities.



You will also find links to the Neurodiversity Hub, which offers guidance to those with a child who presents with a range of neurodevelopmental needs.

Thank you / Meur ras

If you have any questions or comments

0800 5878191

01872 323535

fis@cornwall.gov.uk

