

# PLAY, LEARN & GROW



We all want our children to grow up to be healthy, happy and well-adjusted to the world around them and whatever your situation, balancing family life in this modern world can be tough! Children grow up so fast but you can give them a great start in life by taking them to a local nursery, pre-school or to a childminder for a few hours a week, funded by the government.

There are 3 ways in which you may be able to claim a funded place for your child:

## **Families receiving government support**

If you receive any of the following benefits or you are working and on low income as detailed below:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit - if you and your partner are on a low income from work (usually a combined income of less than £15,400 a year after tax)
- guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), AND your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax

From the term after your child turns 2, you might be able to claim 15 hours a week early education and childcare up to a maximum of 570 hours per year, funded by the government.

For more information and to check if you qualify go to [lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare)

**Don't miss out, your child is entitled!**

[lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare)



## Working families

Eligible working families can now get up to 30 hours early education and childcare from the term after your child turns 9 months. You, and any partner must expect to earn:

- on average at least £183 per week from 16 hours a week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) and
- Less than £100,000 adjusted net income per year.

If you fall into this category, go to the **Best Start in Life Parent Hub** for further information and to claim your childcare entitlement code.

## All families

All 3&4 year old children in Lancashire are entitled to up to 15 hours per week (570 hours per year) funded by the government. Visit: [lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare) for more information.

Why it's good for your child to take up a place at a nursery, pre-school or with a childminder...

- attending the fun sessions helps your child to learn and develop through play.
- your child will make new friends and build their confidence.
- it helps improve your child's speaking and listening skills.
- it helps prepare your child to be ready for starting school.

## Rest assured...

- your child will be looked after in a safe, secure environment regulated by Ofsted.
- all our nurseries, pre-schools and childminders are fully inclusive and cater for a range of cultural, dietary, religious and special or educational needs.

## Finding the right nursery, pre-school or childminder

You can find a list of local nurseries, pre-schools. And childminders that offer places visit our website - [lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare).

There are also a range of helpful guides there to help you choose which type best suits your family's needs.

## If you need more hours than the government funds...

If you want to increase your child's hours or are currently paying for extra hours you may be entitled to further financial support from the government such as **Tax Free Childcare** or through **Universal Credit**.

## We're here to help

The Family Information Service is here to help support you from the very start of your child's early learning journey right up until they start school. So, no matter what questions or concerns you may have, we will be happy to help you. You can get in touch with us by calling: 0300 123 6712 or by emailing us at: [fis@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@lancashire.gov.uk)

For more detailed information about taking up a place with a nursery, pre-school or childminder please visit: [lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare)

