

Parent Funding Brochure

Help with childcare costs:
your need-to-know guide

2023 

Find out
about **new**
funding options
coming in
2024

Contents:

Bright Horizons and You	Pg 2
What's available	Pg 2
Funded hours - what you need to know	Pg 3
Making the best of your Funded Hours	Pg 4
Tax-free childcare (TFC)	
– Your Questions Answered	Pg 5
A Bright Beginning for Your Child	Pg 6
Making “growing up” easier	Pg 6
Choosing the right nursery for your child	Pg 7
Your Toolkit	Pg 8

COMING IN 2024

Bright Horizons and You

Our focus, every day is the children and families we serve. The cost of living continues to be a challenge and we appreciate that childcare costs can be a source of worry. There is government support available, let us help you understand what the options are and how to get it.

Here's our guide to funded hours and tax-free childcare: we hope you find it helpful.

Funded hours will be changing!

In March 2023, the Government announced plans to increase access to funded childcare hours to include younger children. The phased introduction of this plan begins in April 2024 through to September 2025:

- From April 2024, children aged two to receive 15 hours of funded childcare.
- As of September 2024, children aged nine months also to have access to the 15 hours of funded childcare.
- By September 2025, all eligible children aged from 9 months to school age to receive 30 hours of funded childcare.

What's available?



Funded childcare
15 hours
(Available to all 3 and 4 year old children)



Funded childcare
15 hours for 2 year-olds
(Eligibility dependent)



Funded childcare
30 hours
(Eligibility Dependent - 3 and 4 year old 30 hours funding is made up of two parts: **15 hours base** for all children plus an additional potential 15 extended dependent on individual family circumstances)



Tax free childcare
vouchers
(Eligibility dependent)

Funded Hours – what you need to know ()

Funded childcare 15 hours

All parents of 3 and 4 year-olds are entitled to the 15 hours funding

From the term after your child's 3rd birthday and until they start school, you can get 570 hours of government-funded childcare a year. It's known as the 15 hours funding since it relates to 15 hours of funded care a week for 38 weeks of the year (term-time).

How do I get it?

Just contact us and let us know that you want to use your 15 hours funding at a wonderful Bright Horizons nursery.

Funded childcare 15 hours for 2 year-olds

Some parents will be able to apply for 15 hours funding for 2 year olds

If you are in receipt of certain benefits such as Income Support or Universal Credit, or your child has Disability Living Allowance or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, you may be able to get 15 funded hours for your child.

How do I get it?

You'll need to speak to someone at your local council – or contact us **0330 828 9445**

COMING IN 2024

Coming in April 2024 new funding. More parents will be able to apply for 15 hours funding for two year olds. You may be eligible for 15 hours funding for your two year old if you are working and earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national living or minimum wage, but less than £100,000 a year. If you are a couple, then this applies to each of you – if one of you doesn't work, or one of you earns over £100,000, you won't be eligible.

How will I get it?

To find out more about the new funding, please sign up on the [government Childcare Choices website](#) and speak to your local Bright Horizons' Nursery Manager about availability.

Funded childcare 30 hours

You may be eligible for an additional 15 hours (30 hours funding).

You must be working and earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national living or minimum wage, but less than £100,000 a year. If you are a couple, then this applies to each of you – if one of you doesn't work, or one of you earns over £100,000, you won't be eligible.

How do I get it?

You need to apply for the additional 15 funded hours through the government's website (see Toolkit at the end of this guide). Applying for additional 15 hours funded childcare usually takes people around 20 minutes. You'll need your National Insurance number (or your Unique Taxpayer Reference if you're self-employed). If you are a couple, you will need this information for each of you.

If your application is successful, you'll receive the additional 15 hours funding code. Just send us the code and secure your child's place at your chosen Bright Horizons nursery.

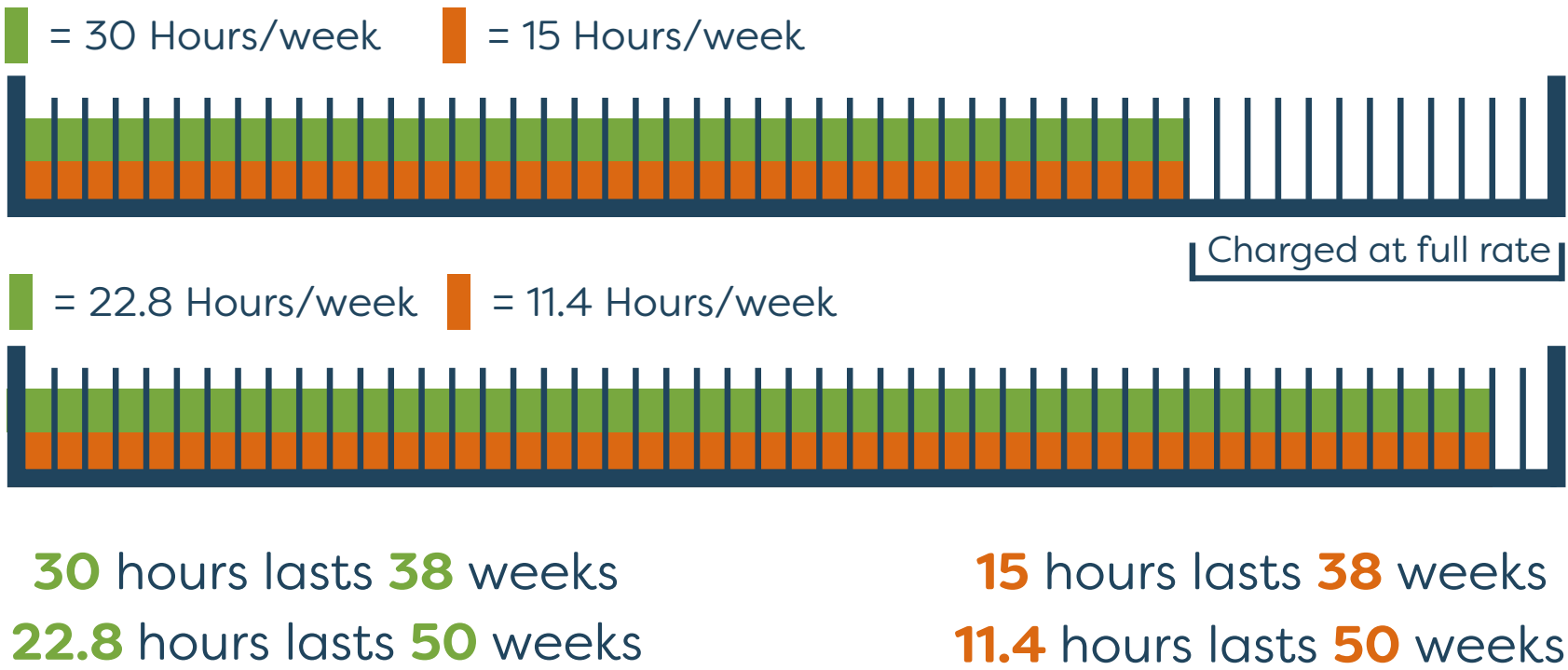
Making the best of your Funded Hours

30 hours of funded childcare adds up to 1,140 fun-filled hours of play and learning a year!



Our Stretched funding breakdown over a year
(Stretched hours also applies to 15 hours universal funding)

30 hours and 15 hours



Making it work for you – all year round

Just imagine the fun your child could have, learning and exploring for over 1,000 hours at a warm, welcoming Bright Horizons nursery. How do you make the very best of that opportunity?

We want to make sure that families use their funding to its full potential, and this is why we stretch the universal and extended funding across 50 weeks instead of limiting it to the 38 weeks of term time. This enables families whose child is registered part time to access more of the funded hours than they would otherwise be able to if we used the restricted term-time structure. (However, at some of our nurseries we will “unstretch” funding if you prefer to have it term-time only).

If you’d like more information about how this system works, to find out more about Bright Horizons, or to **book a nursery tour**, have a chat with your local nursery manager or our friendly customer care team.

Tax-free childcare (TFC) – Your Questions Answered

? Can I get TFC?

The rules for TFC are similar to those of the 30 hours funding, for example you (and your partner) need to be working and earning more than national minimum wage but less than £100,000 a year.

? Does Bright Horizons accept TFC?

Yes we do! Bright Horizons is a government-approved provider, and all of our nurseries are registered with Ofsted, inspected by them regularly to ensure we provide the best quality of care and education.

Of course, you can also choose to use TFC to pay for a nanny, childminder or playscheme, as long as they are approved by the government. You can check if a childcare provider is approved at the government's childcare webpages.

? How does it work?

You open an online account through the government website which you use to pay for your childcare. For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up an extra 20p.

- So, for every pound you pay for your childcare, you're getting a 20% contribution from the government: this is equivalent of the tax most people pay - 20% - which is how the scheme got its name.
- The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child, per year (or £4,000 for disabled children).
- The scheme covers all your children, including adopted children, provided they live with you and are under the age of 12 years, (or 17 for children with disabilities).

? How do I apply?

If you've checked your eligibility and decided that the TFC scheme is right for you and your family, you can apply in about 20 minutes. You'll need your NI number (or if you're self-employed your Unique Taxpayer Reference) and if you have a partner you'll need theirs too.

? Does TFC work with my other benefits?

You can't use TFC if you're already claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, or Universal Credit. So, if you applied for Tax-Free Childcare and were accepted, your Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit would stop at once and you wouldn't be able to receive them again.

? What about TFC and Childcare Vouchers?

The TFC scheme was set up by the government to replace the Childcare Vouchers you could get from your employer. If you joined the Childcare Voucher scheme before 2018 you can continue to use it, but you can't use the TFC scheme at the same time.

A Bright Beginning for Your Child

We believe we're your best choice for your child, right from the beginning. Your little one will get the best start through our enriching and wellbeing-focused **Bright Beginnings Curriculum**, designed by our own Early Years specialists.

Building on the foundations of the government's EYFS curriculum, Bright Beginnings puts each child's happiness and wellbeing at its heart. A thoughtful combination of a wide range of activities will nurture and develop the skills your child needs to flourish and reach their full potential. This holistic yet personal approach supports each child's wellbeing, development, and progress.

Preparing for 'Big School'

Preparing children for school is all about instilling a love for learning, building emotional resilience, and nurturing their curiosity about the world.

Our expert practitioners will support your child to feel confident to take that next exciting step.

Bright Horizons' Ready for School programme brings structure and focus to maths, reading, writing, and other essential skills your child needs to get ready for school.

Our staff will introduce your child to age-appropriate maths, reading, writing and art, and also focus on growing the life skills, knowledge, and confidence they'll need to be prepared for school and beyond.

Many families decide to increase their child's attendance at nursery at around 3 years old, since an increase in the number of days children attend at this age can help develop their social skills and prepare them for the transition to 'big school.'

The 30 hours funding helps make that choice more affordable. Have a chat with us today and find out more.



Choosing the right nursery for your child

Now that you’ve seen how funding can help, the next step is to understand why, every year, thousands of families choose us to provide the best care and education for their children.

(The funding only covers the cost of childcare and not all the essentials and extras that make Bright Horizons the wonderful and exciting learning experience for your child. To ensure we give your child the best start in life, we’ll ask you to pay for these. They include all the key essentials like food as well as all of the additional experiences that make our nurseries unique.)



Our Growing Enhancements relate to the core areas of Growing Readers, Growing Writers and Growing Mathematicians and are aligned to the national curriculum. Our staff take your child’s natural interest and curiosity as a springboard to skilfully make learning fun and guide their activities. We use actions, experiences, and open-ended questions to stretch and challenge them in areas such as problem-solving, memory and information processing.



All children need a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet with a variety of textures and food types to help both their cognitive development and overall healthy growth. Our nursery menus are planned in consultation with professional nutritionists, and, in the majority of nurseries, food is cooked onsite every day by qualified chefs using fresh ingredients.



Our nursery children love ‘Candy Floss’, our unique Health and Safety Superhero who was designed by our children, for our children. A blue-striped zebra with a highly important mission - Keeping Everyone Safe. Candy Floss accompanies the children throughout the day, reminding them to stay safe and healthy, and to learn how to safely assess risk for themselves.



We use the successful Boogie Mites programme to introduce children of all ages to active music-making. The rhythm and movement activities and lively songs enhance your child’s physical skills which encourage early communication and language development.



Your **Bright Horizons Family App!**
Updates on your child’s day, straight to your pocket!

Our Bright Horizons Family App gives you information in real time, at home or on the go. You’ll also be able to view your child’s nursery profile, to see what they’ve been learning and get status updates including mealtimes, nappy changes, room locations and more through the handy activity log. You’ll even receive photos and videos of your little one, so you can be sure they’re happy!



Why not come and see what we have to offer. Book a visit at your nearest nursery and take a look around.

Your Toolkit...

We hope that this guide has been a helpful introduction to childcare funding. Below we've put together some links to the key government sites that you'll need in order to apply for funding.

You can find out more about us using the links to the right. Please get in touch if you have any questions or want to learn more - we're here for you, every step of the way, and look forward to hearing from you.



Government webpages:

- [Childcare Choices](#)
- [Childcare Calculator](#)
- [Apply for 30-hour funding](#)
- [Funded Hours for 2-year-olds](#)
- [Check if you can apply for Tax-free Childcare](#)
- [Finding an approved childcare provider](#)
- [Apply for Tax-free Childcare](#)

More help from Bright Horizons...



Find a Nursery



More on 15/ 30 hours Funding



Events



Who we are



