

15 and 30 hours Free early learning and childcare



Take steps toward supporting your child's development!

- Social skills:** spending quality time with other children and adults
- Learning:** young children learn while they play and explore
- Routines:** children gain confidence, independence, and a sense of security

Free hours are available for 38 weeks a year, or some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over more weeks, using fewer hours each week.

How many hours of childcare can you get a week?

Age 9 months+

Working families

30 hours

Age 2 years+

Working families

30 hours

Age 3 years+

Working families

30 hours



Sign up for updates at
beststartinlife.gov.uk

Families receiving
some additional forms
of government support

15 hours

All families

15 hours

Free hours are available from the start of the term after your child turns the relevant age by 31 March, 31 August, or 31 December.

What can you get?

Age 9 months–4 years

30 hours a week – for eligible working families*; both parents need to be working.

Speak to your local childcare providers to find out what they are offering
Apply at beststartinlife.gov.uk

***Eligible working families** – Where each parent is employed, earning less than £100,000 per year, and earns at least the equivalent of the National Minimum or Living Wage for 16 hours a week.

2 years

Families receiving government support

15 hours a week – for families receiving benefits or on a low wage. Also, for children looked after, families with no recourse to public funds, children receiving DLA or with an EHCP. Apply at islington.gov.uk/free2

Age 3–4

15 hours a week – for everyone; no need to apply.

Contact early years providers to ask about a place.

Tax-Free Childcare, Universal Credit

Eligible families may be entitled to Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit to support with childcare costs.

Any questions?

Contact Islington Family Information Service (FIS)

020 7527 5959

fis@islington.gov.uk

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30 hours application deadline

My child turns the relevant age between	I can access my funded hours from	Application deadline
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	31 March
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	31 August
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	31 December