

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are aware that many parents are unsure about the different childcare funding they may be entitled to. There are various options for parents, please find details below:

Tax-Free Childcare- You can get up to £500 every 3 months (£2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. If you get Tax-Free Childcare, the government will pay £2 for every £8 you pay your childcare provider. This is paid via an online childcare account that you set up for your child. You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

30 Hours Funding- Working parents may be able to get up to 30 hours funded childcare (1,140 hours per year) if your child is 3 to 4 years old. You can get 30 hours funded childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits, childcare vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Tax Credits- Working Tax Credit has been replaced by Universal Credit for most people. If you are already getting tax credits, you may be able to get help with up to 70% of childcare costs, through your tax credits.

Universal Credit- You may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit. You (and your partner if you live with them) will usually need to either be working (it does not matter how many hours you or your partner work) or have a job offer.

2 Year old Funding- In order to be eligible for free childcare for your two-year-old you must either be in receipt of a qualifying benefit (e.g income support, JSA, universal credit etc) or your 2-year-old has a statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, get Disability Living Allowance, have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order. Full details can be found here- <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

If you are eligible under the financial criteria, you can apply here to get your funding code:

<https://directory.walthamforest.gov.uk/kb5/walthamforest/directory/fel.page>

If your child meets any of the non-financial criteria, contact the Waltham Forest Childcare Team on 020 8496 3566.

Childcare Grant- You may be eligible for help with your childcare costs if you are a full-time higher education student and have children under 15, or under 17 if they have special educational needs. You can get 85% of your childcare costs or a fixed maximum amount, whichever is less.

The government has a useful **childcare calculator** that parents can use to find out what they are eligible for: <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children- if a child has a disability and/or special educational need, DLA may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who: is under 16; has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. They will need to meet all the eligibility requirements. The DLA rate is between £23.20 and £148.85 a week and depends on the level of help the child needs. <https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children/eligibility>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah or Rebekah in the office. If you need support to complete a DLA application, please arrange to speak with Kirstie.