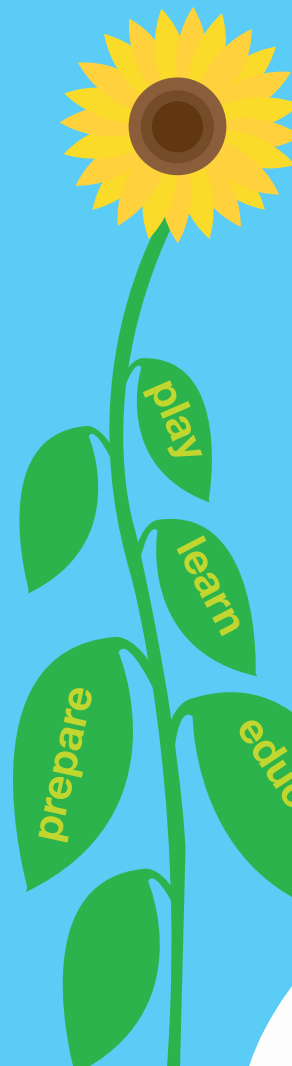
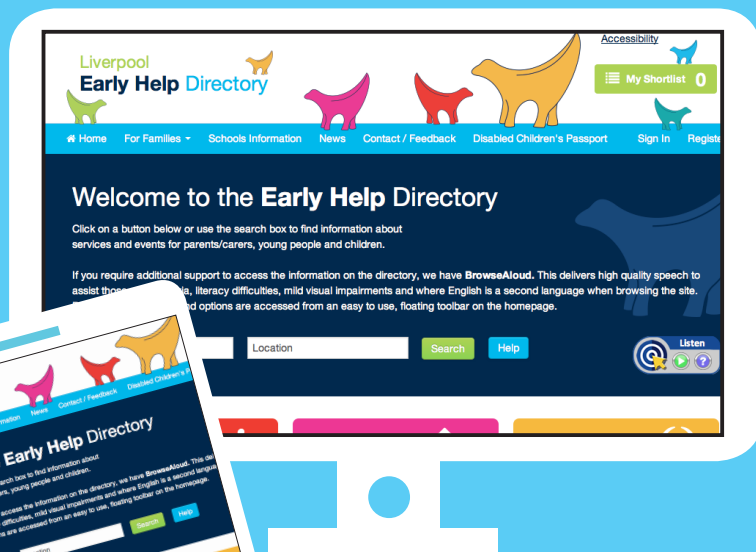




Liverpool City Council



For further information on free childcare funding, contact Liverpool Family Information Service 0800 085 2022 lcis@liverpool.gov.uk

Access our Early Help Directory at: ehd.liverpool.gov.uk

Free Early Education for 2, 3 & 4 year olds



Every three and four-year-old is entitled to receive 570 hours of free childcare a year, and now, some two-year-olds are also eligible.

Free childcare for two year olds

Parents can apply by checking they meet the criteria and simply provide proof to the chosen provider of their choice. This can be proof of an income support letter a Tax credits awards notice (TC602A) provided by HMRC or for Asylum seekers a NASS card. The Providers will use this proof as evidence as eligibility so they can claim funding for your child's place. Evidence of the child's date of birth will need to be shown along with the proof you provide before a place can be offered. The Authority can ask the provider to evidence they have had sight of these documents when they make a claim for funding as part of the audit arrangements.

Where a child is looked After by the Local Authority (LAC) their eligibility will be confirmed by the Local Authority.

For children with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities (SEND) you will be eligible if the child has an Education Health Care Plan or if the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or is receiving a Personal Independence Payment Award (PIP.)

Birthday falls between	Term funding starts
1st April - 31st August	September
1st September - 31st December	January
1st January - 31st March	April

Free childcare for three and four-year-olds

Every child is entitled to receive this funding from the term after their third birthday and this will remain in place until the start of their Reception Year at school.

What you need to know about your free childcare

- Each child accessing free childcare is entitled to a total of 570 hours funded education during a year.
- You can take your **FREE** hours either termly (over 38 weeks) or spread over the full year (50 weeks), if available at your chosen childcare provider.
- Sessions cannot be less than 2 hours or more than 10 hours in any one day, and the full entitlement cannot be taken over less than 2 days per week.
- You have the choice to only take the **FREE** entitlement hours if that is all you want, and this is completely **FREE** to you.

- Your child can take a packed lunch if you do not wish to purchase a meal from your provider.
- If you attend two childcare settings, e.g. a nursery and a playgroup, you can choose to use your **FREE** hours at one setting or split the hours between the two.

Payment and your bills

If you buy extra childcare hours your bill/invoice should clearly distinguish between the hours you pay for and the **FREE ENTITLEMENT**. E.g. On your bill/invoice you should only see a cost for the number of hours you need to pay for and your Free Entitlement should show as **FREE**.

- Liverpool City Council (LCC) pays your chosen provider directly for the **FREE** hours you receive.
- You **DO NOT** have to buy additional hours or services such as lunches or uniform to receive the funded hours. However, if you have decided to purchase additional services, these should be clearly shown on your invoice.
- You **DO NOT** have to pay towards any **FREE** funded hours. Providers are not allowed to charge you for any difference between their own prices and the payments they receive from **LCC**.

What you can expect from your childcare provider

- Providers **CAN** set which sessions or days are available for free childcare places.
- Providers **CAN** charge a different rate for hours taken in addition to **FREE** funded hours, but must ensure parents are made aware of this before accepting a place.
- Providers **CANNOT** attach any special conditions on children accessing their free place, e.g. make you take all your funded entitlement with them or insist that you pay for extra sessions or lunches to access your free place.

