

Where can my child receive free early education?

It can be accessed through:

- School nursery classes
- Independent schools
- Children's Centres
- Private nurseries
- Playgroups and Pre-schools
- Accredited Childminders

All childcare providers must be included in the Leeds Early Years Service Directory of Providers

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

The EYFS is a framework for childcare settings, childminders and schools to support children (0-5) to give them the best start in life. It sets the standards for quality provision, giving parents the confidence that the childcare they choose will keep their children safe and support their child's early learning. The EYFS is an inclusive, play based framework promoting partnership with parents and carers. To find out more ask your childcare provider or visit:- www.foundationyears.org.uk

Contact information

For further advice or information on childcare you can contact The Family Hub Leeds:-

Website: www.thefamilyhubleeds.org

Phone: 0800 731 0640 / 0113 247 4386

Email: family.hub@leeds.gov.uk

or visit our offices at

10th Floor West
Merrion House
Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8DT



Free early learning for three and four year olds



What is free early education?

All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early learning. This is funded through the government and makes sure that all children aged between three and four have access to high quality early learning.

When can my child start?

Your child becomes eligible for a free place from the start of the school term following their third birthday and are entitled to it until school age.

Use the table below to find out the starting term for your child.

For children born between	Funding will start from
1 April and 31 August (inclusive)	Start from September term following their third birthday
1 September and 31 December (inclusive)	Start from January term following their third birthday
1 January and 31 March (inclusive)	Start from April term following their third birthday

How much can I claim?

All funding is paid directly to the childcare setting. Your child is entitled to 15 hours free entitlement for 38 weeks per year or if your child attends less than 15 hours per week this can be spread across 51 weeks per year (up to a maximum of 570 hours per year.) Not every provider will operate this flexibly but you should be able to find something to suit your needs within your local area.

In Leeds you can take a minimum of three hours a day free early learning and a maximum of six hours per day.

Is it really free?

As long as you only take the free entitlement of a maximum of 15 hours per week across 38 weeks or less than 15 hours per week across 51 weeks (up to a maximum of 570 hours per year) then you will not have to pay a penny to your childcare provider.

If you choose to place your child in childcare over and above the maximum of 15 hours per week you will need to pay your childcare provider for these additional hours.

How can I claim it?

If your child is already attending a childcare setting you can ask them to apply for the funds on your behalf. They will ask you to sign a form confirming the number of hours you attend at that setting. The local authority then pays the setting directly.

If your child is not already using childcare you may wish to register them at your choice of childcare setting, but please make sure they are registered both with Ofsted and Leeds City Council. If in doubt contact The Family Hub Leeds (details overleaf). The setting of your choice may have limited places available, but there should be available places in your local area.

What if my child requires extra support?

All early learning settings must give a place to your child if a place is available. They should be fully accessible and support children with additional needs.

If you think your child may need extra support, talk to them. Specialist equipment and training is available to settings to help them support your child.

