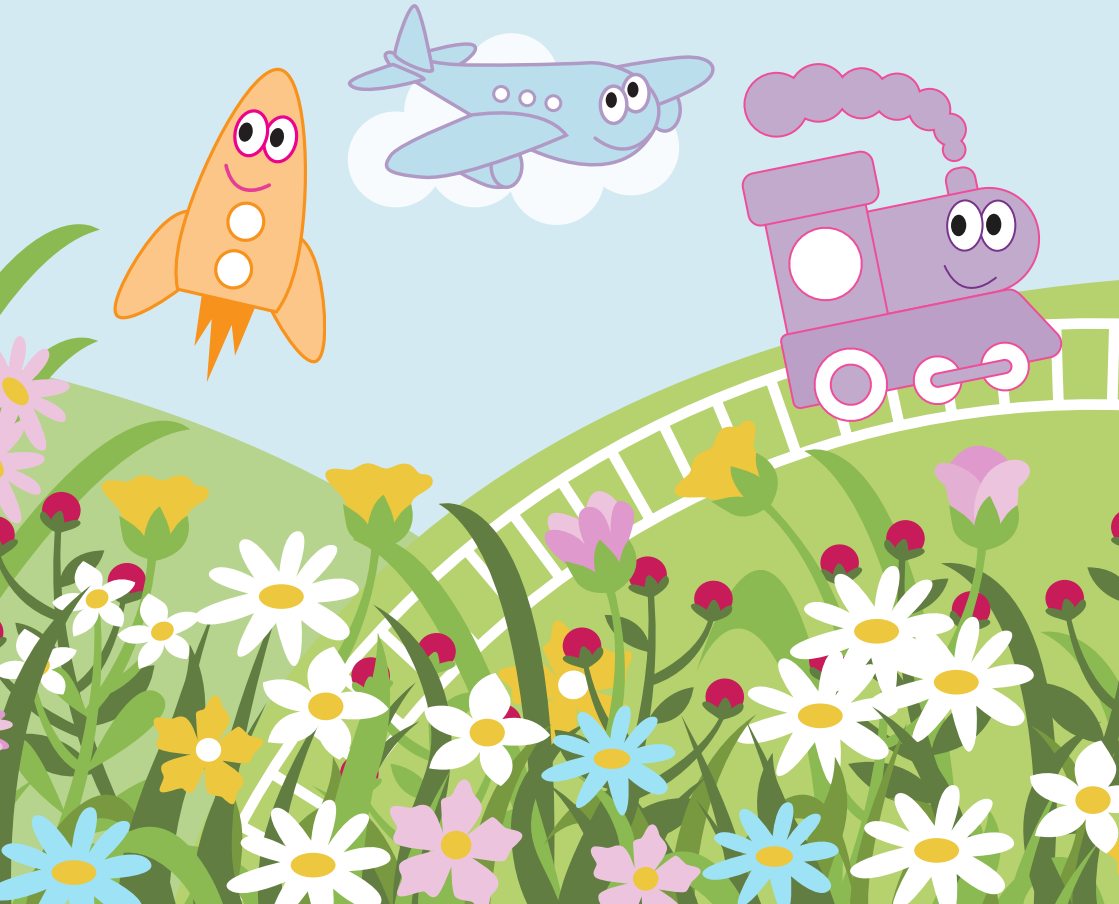
BEST START IN LIFE

Derby City Council

The Families Information Service

Help with early learning childcare costs

Find out about all the support that is available to you that will help you pay for early learning childcare



The Families Information Service

We are the Families Information Service! We provide free, impartial information and advice to families about childcare and other services that support families. These include:

- A Childcare Directory - an online directory of registered childcare within Derby city including, nursery schools, day nurseries, childminders, before and after schools clubs and more. **derby.gov.uk/childcaredirectory**

- A Family Hub Directory - an online directory that holds information on local and national organisations and their events, services, family activities and support groups. **derby.gov.uk/family-hub**

- Making childcare more affordable - We can support you on how to choose the right childcare for you and how to save money on the childcare you pay for. Call us for a friendly chat - we can help!

Get in touch
Tel **01332 640758**
Email **FIS@derby.gov.uk**
Facebook **@DerbyFIS**
Signing service **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Funded early learning childcare

Best Start in Life is a government website that helps parents find out which funding option is financially suitable for their family.

In England, children can attend early years provision between the ages of 0 and 5 years. This is an important developmental period in their lives. Quality early years provision prepares children for success in later education by giving them the building blocks for future learning.

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk
Helpline: 0300 1234 097

Early learning childcare helps children to develop a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for school readiness, and future progress through school and life.

Early learning childcare encourages your child to:
- learn
- play
- make new friends
- experience new activities
- prepare for their next steps

It can also help you:
- have more time
- take up training
- with work choices
- meet other parents
- get ideas of how to help your child play and learn

Research has found that children who attended early years provision, of any kind, achieved better GCSE results than those who did not. International research has also found that quality early years provision particularly benefits children from low-income backgrounds.

Accessible, affordable, quality provision not only supports family income by ensuring that parents can work, but also supports children's development, well-being and success later in life.

Understanding childcare funding

Childcare funding will cover either 1140hrs or 570hrs of early year learning each year depending on which funding offer you are eligible for.

The funding is not meant to cover all costs; there will be some additional costs that parents might have to pay for such as:

- meals
- nappies
- additional hours
- additional activities

All additional costs must be discussed and agreed with you in writing before you take up your child's place. Additional costs must be voluntary, and the childcare provider must give you other options such as bringing a packed lunch or providing your own nappies.

All costs must be clearly set out on your nursery fees invoice, so that you can easily understand the additional services that you are paying for.

If you would like to discuss your funding and childcare costs, you can contact the Families Information Service directly on **01332 640758** or email **fis@derby.gov.uk**.

The Families Information Service

Parents' questions about childcare

Care and quality

- Childcare providers want your child to feel happy, safe and relaxed. They will offer settling-in visits so your child can get to know the staff and the setting at their own pace.
- You can talk to your childcare provider about any dietary requirements or preferences your child has, respecting your child's individual needs.
- Childcare staff are caring professionals who are used to supporting children who are upset when a parent leaves. They will comfort your child and help them to feel secure.
- Childcare providers will work in partnership with you. They will want to know about your child's likes and dislikes, and their usual sleep and feeding routines, so they can care for your child in a way that feels familiar and reassuring.
- Childcare providers, such as day nurseries, school nurseries, pre-schools and childminders, are Ofsted registered and follow the Early Years Foundation Stage. This helps support your child's learning and development from birth to 5 years old.
- Most childcare providers in Derby who offer funded places are graded by Ofsted as outstanding or good. Derby City Council funds providers that are graded outstanding or good, so you can be confident in the quality of care.
- Most staff at childcare providers hold at least a Level 2 childcare qualification, and many have higher qualifications. All staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid to help keep children safe.
- To help keep all children safe and well, your child will not be able to attend if they are unwell. Please speak to your childcare provider about what this means and when your child can return.

Taking up a funded childcare place

- Give yourself plenty of time to find and visit childcare providers. Places can fill up quickly, so try not to leave it until you urgently need childcare.
- Once you have found a childcare provider, secure your child's place by completing the parental contract with them.
- If you are eligible for a funded place, apply for your funding code in the term before your child is due to start. Some funding codes must be reconfirmed every 3 months. If you forget to reconfirm, you may lose your funding.

Parents' questions about childcare continued

- When your child first starts, you do not have to use all the funded hours straight away. You can build up the hours each term, so your child can get used to going to childcare.
- You can split your funded hours across more than one childcare provider. Talk to your providers about how this could work for you.
- Childminders offer funded childcare places in the same way as group providers, such as nurseries and pre-schools.

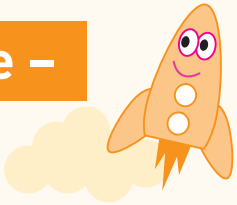
Additional costs

- Using funded childcare, you may still be charged for extra services, such as:
  - meals, nappies, wipes and sun cream
  - additional activities, such as trips
  - extra hours, depending on your pattern of attendance
- Registration or administration fees are only charged when parents need extra hours beyond their funded hours.
- Childcare providers must let you know, before your child starts, what any additional costs will be. These costs must be clearly itemised on your invoice.
- Childcare providers cannot insist that you pay for extra hours as part of your child's usual attendance pattern. However, if you choose to use extra hours that are not covered by funding, you will be charged for these.
- You may be able to access different funded childcare offers, depending on whether you are working or receiving benefits and if you meet the eligibility criteria.

Attendance

- Attendance is important. Providers want your child to get the most out of their early learning sessions. You will need to follow the times agreed in your signed parental contract.
- Whatever childcare provider your child attends, even if it is a school nursery, you still need to apply separately for a school place. Attending a school nursery does not guarantee a place at that school.
- Depending on which childcare offer you are eligible for, your child will receive either 570 hours or 1,140 hours per year of early learning with your chosen childcare provider. Each provider offers different attendance patterns, so speak to them to find out how many weeks per year they offer funded hours and how these can be used.

Take Off early learning childcare – 9 months to 4 years



Your child could receive up to 1140 hours of funded early learning childcare per year the term after they turn 9 months old.

Who is it for?	What age does your child need to be?	What does your child get?
For eligible **working** families	Available the term after your child turns 9 months old	**1140 hours over 12 months. This can be taken as:** 30 hours of funded early learning childcare for 38 weeks of the year, the term after they turn 9 months old, **Or** You can use less hours per week for more weeks of the year, this is called a stretched offer. You can use it with one or more childcare providers.

Targeted at working parents – Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if you have one) must each expect to earn at least, on average, equivalent to the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week.

Both parents in a two-parent household must be working. Part-time working could meet the income threshold. Self-employed parents may also be eligible.

You can earn up to £100,000 adjusted net income per year and be eligible. If you or your partner have an expected adjusted net income over £100,000 in the current tax year, you will not be eligible.

When can your child start early learning childcare?

- 31 March to start in Summer term - April
- 31 August to start in Autumn term - September
- 31 December to start in Spring term - January

You can check your eligibility and apply for your code up to 16 weeks before your child is due to start. Your eligibility code **must be reconfirmed every 3 months** otherwise you will lose your funding!

How to apply
www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working
Helpline: 0300 1234 097

Childcare providers offer many different funding models. You will need to speak to your childcare provider to find out what combination of fee paying and funded childcare sessions they offer.

Government funding does not cover

- meals
- nappies
- additional hours
- additional activities, such as trips

We recommend that these extras are confirmed in writing before you take up your child's place. Some providers may let you bring a packed lunch if the cost of their lunch is a barrier to you taking a place.

If you are applying for funding codes via the gov.uk website, please be aware that you must apply before their cut off dates and that you **must reconfirm your code every 3 months** or you will lose your childcare funding!



Early Years Pupil Premium



Information for parents

More funding for your child

Childcare providers can claim additional funding each year to spend on enhancing your 9 month to 4 year old child's early learning.

It is important for any qualifying family to fill in a simple form, available from your childcare provider.

Once you have completed the form, please return it to where your child receives their early learning.

Please contact the Families Information Service on 01332 640758 or email FIS@derby.gov.uk

How could this help your child?



Your child will:

- Benefit from a wide range of exciting play and learning experiences
- Be able to use additional equipment to develop their skills and meet their learning needs
- Be more prepared for starting school

Do I qualify?

You can apply for early years pupil premium if:

- your child is aged 9 months to 2 years
- your child is 3 or 4 and you get 15 hours funded childcare

You must also get at least one of the following:

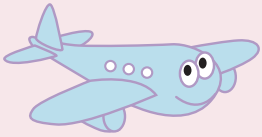
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

You may also get early years pupil premium if your child is currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales or if your child has left care in England or Wales through:

- adoption
- special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order

Don't let your childcare provider miss out on this opportunity, talk to them today!

Disability access fund



Your child's childcare provider could get additional funding to help with their education and support.

This will be paid direct to your childcare provider.

You can apply to get disability access funding if your child receives Disability Living Allowance and one of the following:

- 15 hours of All Aboard early learning childcare – 3 to 4 year olds
- 15 hours of Flying Start early learning childcare – 2 year olds
- 15 hours of Take Off early learning childcare – 9 months to 4 years

You do not need to use all of your hours to be eligible for disability access funding.

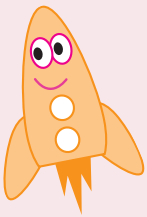
To apply for disability access funding speak to your childcare provider.

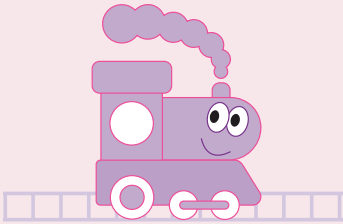
Early Years Inclusion Fund

Early years inclusion funding is a type of financial support provided to childcare providers to help them meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are accessing funded early learning. This is called The Early Years Inclusion Fund.

This funding is intended to enable childcare providers to offer enhanced support, interventions, and resources to ensure these children can fully participate and thrive within their childcare settings.

Your childcare provider can request this on your child's behalf using the Early Years Inclusion Fund request form which is available on Derby's Schools Information Portal.

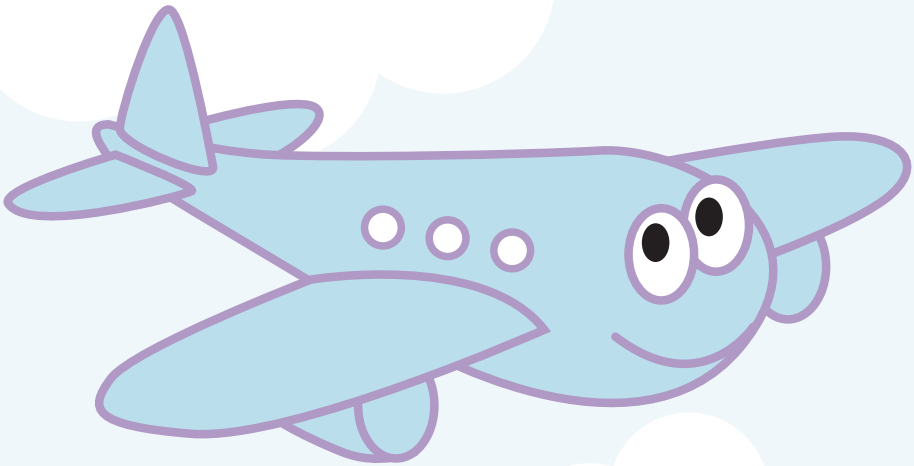




Flying Start early learning childcare – 2 year olds

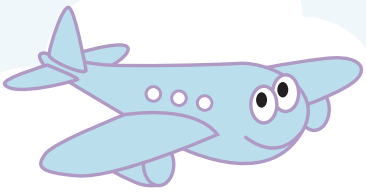
A Flying Start funded place is fully funded however providers can ask you for a voluntary contribution to consumables such as meals and snacks. If theses contributions are a barrier to you accessing a place, please speak to your childcare provider as they **must** offer you alternatives such as you providing a packed lunch.

Some families might meet the eligibility criteria for both Take off and Flying Start funding. If you do, it is recommended that you use your Flying Start eligibility code as you do not need to reconfirm it. The code and funding are valid until the term after your child turns 3, even if your circumstances change.



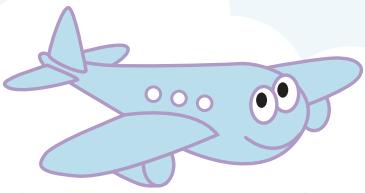
Flying Start for 2 year olds – economic

Who is it for?	Who is eligible?	What age does your child need to be?	What does your child get?	How to apply
For eligible families	For eligible families who are in receipt of **qualifying benefits.** If you are eligible and have a code, you do not have to revalidate even if your household circumstances change.	Available the term after your child turns 2 years old.	**570 hours over 12 months. This can be taken as:** 15 hours of funded early learning childcare for 38 weeks of the year, the term after they turn 2 years old, **Or** You can use less hours per week for more weeks of the year, this is called a stretched offer. You can use it with one or more childcare providers.	derby.gov.uk/2yearchildcare



Flying Start for 2 year olds – other

Who is it for?	Who is eligible?	What age does your child need to be?	What does your child get?	How to apply
For eligible families	For eligible families that meet qualifying criteria: **Looked After Child** **Child with SEND** If you are eligible and have a code, you do not have to revalidate even if your household circumstances change.	Available the term after your child turns 2 years old.	**570 hours over 12 months. This can be taken as:** 15 hours of funded early learning childcare for 38 weeks of the year, the term after they turn 2 years old, **Or** You can use less hours per week for more weeks of the year, this is called a stretched offer. You can use it with one or more childcare providers.	derby.gov.uk/2yearchildcare



No Recourse to Public Funds

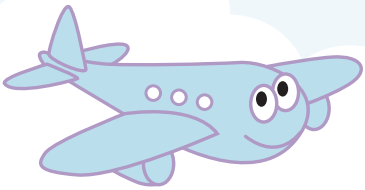
Funding is available the term after your child turns 2 years old and offers 570 hours over 12 months. This can be taken as:

- 15 hours of funded early learning childcare for 38 weeks of the year, the term after they turn 2 years old, or
- You can use less hours per week for more weeks of the year, this is called a stretched offer

Asylum Seekers

As an asylum seeker, when you submit your application, you will need to upload the following to the application form:

- Your name and date of birth
- Home Office Letter
- Aspen Card
- NASS number
- Biometric Card or Share Code
- Child's name and date of birth



You can apply for funding using the QR code below.

Visa holders

If your immigration status says you have 'no recourse to public funds' and you are a student, a graduate or working, you may still get funded early learning childcare for your 2 year old.

You must live in England and your household income must be no more than:

- £26,500 for families outside of London with one child
- £30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children

You cannot have more than £16,000 in savings or investments.

No Recourse to Public Funds continued

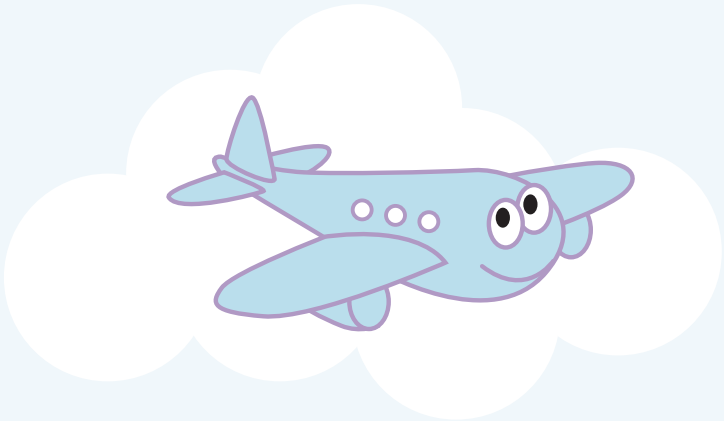
When you submit your application, you will need to upload the following to the application form:

- Your name and date of birth
- Your national insurance number
- Your address
- A copy of your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) front and back, or your share code
- Your payslips for the last 3 months (if you are working)
- Your bank statements for the last 3 months
- Your child's name and date of birth

If you live with a partner, you will also need to upload the following to the application form:

- Your partners name and date of birth
- Copy of your partners BRP (front and back) or share code
- Your partners last 3 months pay slips (if working)
- Your partners last 3 months banks statements

How to apply
derby.gov.uk/2yearchildcare/offer2

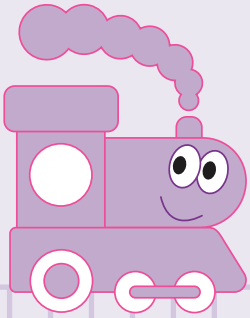


All Aboard early learning childcare – 3 to 4 year olds

All 3 and 4 year old children in England are entitled to 570 hours per year of All Aboard funded early learning childcare. Simply go to a provider of your choice, check their availability and ask to register.

Who is it for?	What age does your child need to be?	What does your child get?	How to apply
For all families	Available the term after your child turns 3 years old.	**570 hours over 12 months. This can be taken as:** 15 hours of funded early learning childcare for 38 weeks of the year, the term after they turn 3 years old, **Or** You can use less hours per week for more weeks of the year, this is called a stretched offer. You can use it with one or more childcare providers.	**Contact your childcare provider.** No code is necessary.

Parents can be working or not working to access All Aboard funded early learning childcare. Eligibility criteria is the child's date of birth. No code is necessary.



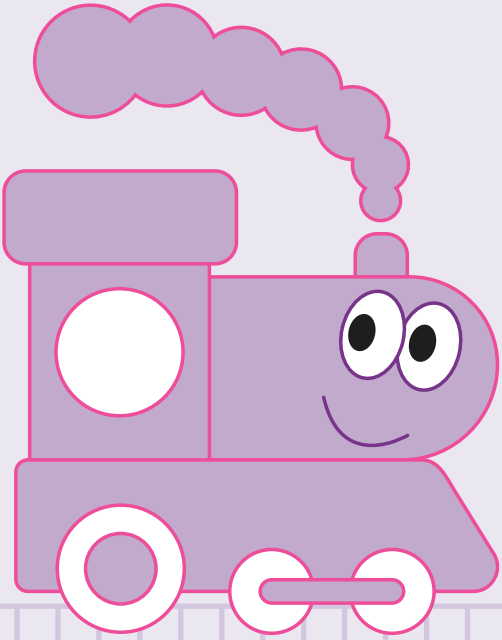
When can your child start early learning childcare?

- 31 March to start in Summer term - April
- 31 August to start in Autumn term - September
- 31 December to start in Spring term - January

If you are a working parent and your child is 3 to 4 years old, you might be eligible for an additional 570 hours of Take Off funding for working parents giving you a total of 1140 hours per year.

Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if you have one) must each expect to earn at least, on average, equivalent to the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week.

How to apply
www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working
Helpline: 0300 1234 097



More financial support

Universal Credit – up to 85% towards the cost of early learning childcare

Who is it for?	Who is eligible	What age does your child need to be?	What does your child get?	How to apply
For **working** families claiming **Universal Tax Credits** in England.	Both parents working, unless one of the allowable exceptions is met.	For children usually under 17 years old including children with a disability.	Up to 85% of the childcare costs can be reclaimed. Up front support is available to fund your first month's childcare payment. Speak to you work coach for more information. Available with a registered childcare provider.	www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-childcare-costs

Tax Free Childcare – 20% towards the cost of early learning childcare

Who is it for?	Who is eligible?	What age does your child need to be?	What does your child get?	How to apply
For **working** families including **self-employed** in the UK.	You and your partner, if you have one, must each expect to earn at least, on average, equivalent to the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week over the next 3 months. You are **not** receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credits, or childcare vouchers.	For children aged 0 to 11 years old or 0 to 16 years old if disabled.	For every £8 you pay into an online childcare account, the government will then add an extra £2. Up to £2,000 per child per year or up to £4,000 per child per year if the child is disabled. Available with a childcare provider which has activated their Tax Free Childcare account.	 www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare

What you need to know

You **must reconfirm** your eligibility for Take Off funded early learning childcare and Tax Free Childcare every 3 months with HRMC through your Government Gateway account. If you apply more than 3 months before the term starts, you'll have to reconfirm your eligibility in your account to keep your code valid.

Your child's birthday	When they can get their hours from	Recommended time to apply
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	15 October to 30 November **Deadline: 31 December**
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	15 January to 1 March **Deadline: 31 March**
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	15 June to 31 July **Deadline: 31 August**

You can apply to HMRC outside of these recommended dates but you might not receive your code in time. You must have a valid code on or before the **deadline dates**. Check with your childcare provider to find out the exact date your funded childcare starts.

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk
Helpline: 0300 1234 097

Childcare for students

As a student, you will need to open a Childcare Grant Payment Service account (CCGPS). The CCGPS is an online platform enabling parents to manage their Childcare Grant by authorising and sending payments to childcare providers electronically.

Paying your childcare provider:

- You'll be contacted each time your childcare provider sends a request for payment
- You just need to sign in, check that the amounts are correct, and approve it
- If you approve the costs submitted by your childcare provider, the payment will be taken from your Childcare Grant balance and paid directly to them

Find out more about the Childcare Grant process
www.gov.uk/guidance/students-reapplying-for-childcare-grant-in-201920

Care to Learn scheme

The Care to Learn scheme can help with childcare costs while you study. You must be aged under 20 at the start of your course. The scheme is available for publicly-funded courses in England. This includes courses in schools, sixth-forms in schools and sixth-form colleges. Claiming Care to Learn will not affect your family's benefits or allowances.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to five days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to their childcare provider

Your education provider will make payments directly to your childcare provider. Before they can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your education provider needs to confirm that you're attending your course

www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/eligibility



52 Things to do before you're 5

52 Things to do before you're 5 is a booklet of fun activities that are free or low-cost that parents and children under five can do together.

To get your copy and for more information call **01332 640758**, go to **derby.gov.uk/52things** or scan here

Join in the fun, get your copy now!

The Families Information Service

Derby City Council

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on **01332 640758** or **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Punjabi
ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਥੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ: **01332 640758** ਜਾਂ **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Polish
Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku. Prosimy o kontakt: **01332 640758** lub **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Slovak
Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Prosím, kontaktujte nás na tel. č.: **01332 640758** alebo na stránke **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Urdu
یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے ، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے ۔ براہ کرم **01332 640758** یا **derby.gov.uk/signing-service** پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں

Derby City Council

Derby City Council
The Council House Corporation Street Derby DE1 2FS
www.derby.gov.uk