When Can A Child Start?

Application to HMRC needs to be the term before you wish your child to start accessing their funded hours. Once your application has been successful, you must reconfirm every 13 weeks that your circumstances have not changed and you still meet the eligibility criteria. Depending on when you apply, you may need to reconfirm your eligibility before your child actually starts accessing their funded hours. **A child cannot start their funded hours without a code being validated by your childcare provider - your code must be valid on your child's first day.**

Children From 9 Months

Child Born In	9 Months In...	Earliest Can Start Entitlement
January	October	Spring Term
February	November	Spring Term
March	December	Spring Term
April	January	Summer Term
May	February	Summer Term
June	March	Summer Term
July	April	Autumn Term
August	May	Autumn Term
September	June	Autumn Term
October	July	Autumn Term
November	August	Autumn Term
December	September	Spring Term

2, 3 & 4 Year Old Funding

Child's Birthday	Eligibility Code Recieved from HMRC by	Child Starts Entitlement
January - March	31st March	From 1st April
April - August	31st August	From 1st September
September - December	31st December	From 1st January

If parents still need to access childcare and are no longer eligible for the funded hours, they may instead, depending on the reasons why they cannot access they funded hours, be able to use Tax-Free childcare or Universal Credit support to lower their childcare costs.