

UNDER 2-YEAR-OLD WORKING FAMILY ENTITLEMENT FUNDING – 2026/2027

Children aged 9 months to 23 months whose parents are working may be eligible to receive 'Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement' funding.

When can a child access Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding?

The term after they have turned 9 months old. To access Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding, the child must meet the date of birth criteria shown below **and** the parent must also have applied and received from HMRC a valid 11-digit code, by the end of the month before a new term starts.

	Summer Term 2026	Autumn Term 2026	Spring Term 2027
Eligible Dates of Birth for Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding	01/04/2024 - 30/06/2025	01/09/2024 - 30/11/2025	1/1/2025 - 31/03/2026

Parents can apply for their code from HMRC up to 16 weeks before their child reaches 9 months of age and can access their funded hours from the term after they meet all the eligibility criteria.

For parents returning to work after maternity, paternity or adoption leave or starting a new job, the date of their return can affect when they are able to access their Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding from. Please refer to the dates within the eligibility criteria here: [Eligibility for 30 hours childcare | Best Start in Life](#) .

If a parent needs to check their eligibility or have a query about applying for their child's code whilst on this type of leave, they should contact HMRC directly on 0300 123 4097.

What is Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding?

This type of funding can be claimed for up to 30 hours per week, for 38 weeks per annum. The basic funding rate payable is £10.41 per hour from April 2026 onwards.

Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding
Claimed by working families/carers meeting certain income requirements. Eligibility criteria can be found here Homepage Best Start in Life
Parents apply to HMRC online using above link
If eligible, a parent will receive an 11-digit code from HMRC
Must be re-confirmed by the parent every three months with HMRC, to continue accessing Working Family Entitlement funding. Parents will keep the same code number details with HMRC, as child turns 2,3, and 4 years old.
Parent must apply and have received their code on or before 31 March, 31 August, or 31 December to claim funding from 1 April, 1 September, or 1 January, respectively.
Any queries regarding applying or eligibility must be made to HMRC on 0300 123 4097

A provider must verify the child's date of birth (reviewing their birth certificate or passport) and confirm the correct details on the signed parental agreement to confirm which type of funding a child is eligible for.

How do I know if I can claim Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding for a child and offer a funded place?

Before offering a funded place for a child claiming Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding, a provider must:

- Check the child's date of birth means they are eligible to access funding in that term and;
- Check the parent holds a valid code from HMRC to claim funding for that term, using the 'eligibility checker' on the Portal.

Further information on checking Working Family Entitlement codes can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPInfo](#)

How do I make a claim for Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding on headcount?

Log into the Portal under 'Funding' then 'Actuals' and select the correct term you are inputting claims for. Then click into 'Under 2's'. **If you cannot see Under 2's on the Funding Type, you must contact eyft@northyorks.gov.uk and they will give access to Under 2yo funding to enable a claim to be made**



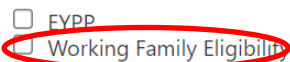
Top Tip - Before inputting this type of claim we always advise checking the validity of the parent's code using the Eligibility Checker screen, before trying to add/send a child's headcount claim. That way you can be sure the code is valid and will work before you are part-way through inputting headcount.

Once you have clicked 'Under 2's' as above, then then click onto 'Add' Child



Working through each screen, please input all details onto 'Child Details' and 'Parent/Carer' Details screen. Take care to ensure all details are correct and that on the 'Parent/Carer' screen you have also ticked the consent boxes for both 'Working Family Eligibility' and 'EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium)'. The team cannot carry out any automatic check to confirm is a child is eligible for EYPP unless this is ticked. Further details on EYPP can be found later in this guide too.

Tick to give consent to Eligibility Checking for



Moving onto the 'Funding Details' screen, see below, work from top of screen to bottom of screen, complete all necessary fields. If you click the 'default term' dates button this should pre-populate with the applicable term dates for you.

Funding Details

Start Date*

End Date*

Weeks Attended in Term*

Present during Census

Attends Two Days or More

Nominated for DAF* Yes No

Stretching Entitlement

Input the number of weekly funded hours you need to claim as '**Expanded Hours**' and enter the 11-digit code as 'Eligibility Code' in the highlighted box. Once added click 'Check Eligibility Code'. If the code and data input onto your claim is correct, you will see the indicator box is greyed out.

Expanded Funded Hours per Week

Expanded Hours*

Eligibility Code

Eligible for Expanded Hours

Eligible for Expanded Hours

If an error message appears at the top of the screen, about the code information you have added, please check you have the correct information for the parent and child or you can use the guidance on the cypsinfo website that can be found here: [Early Years Funding | CYPsinfo](#)

Top Tip - Whilst you investigate any code error/issue, you can delete the 11-digit code number and change the number of 'Expanded' hours to 0. This will enable you to save and come out of the record to keep the details added so far.

If the code details are correct and the validity indicator is now grey, move across to the right hand side of the screen and confirm days of the week attended, and the number of non-funded hours per week the parent pays for, if applicable.

Once all fields are correctly completed, press save. If you have more children to add to claim 'Under 2's Working Family Entitlement' funding then follow the same process, saving each child's claim once complete. It is then up to you whether you wish to send all this type of claim for processing now, or if you prefer to input any other type of funding claim (2YO Disadvantaged funding or 3&4 YO claims) to be included headcount and submitted all together.

As and when you wish to submit for processing any headcount claims you now completed, please click on 'Send Claim.'

Disability Access Funding (DAF) – Can I claim this for a child claiming Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding?

Yes, from September 2024 onwards eligible children aged 9-23 months claiming Under 2's Working Family Entitlement funding can have DAF claimed on their behalf. Further details on DAF including how much is payable, when this can be claimed/paid and what DAF may be used for, can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

How will I know if a child is eligible for DAF?

For DAF to be claimed by a provider, the child must be accessing early years funding on headcount week and currently receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from the Department of Work and Pensions, also on headcount week of the term your claim is made.

Your signed parental agreement should therefore show when a child is claiming DLA in this section below. The parent should also nominate your setting to receive DAF.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Disability Access Funding (DAF)			
<p>Funded children who are in receipt of DLA and are receiving the funding entitlement are eligible for the DAF. The DAF is a fixed annual rate of £975 per eligible child and paid annually to the child's early years childcare provider nominated by the parent. The provider must have a copy of the child's Disability Living Award letter to enable a claim to be made.</p>			
Is your child eligible and in receipt of Disability Living Allowance?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	If YES, please give a copy of the Disability Living Award letter to your provider.
Please name the main early years provider that you wish to claim for the DAF. You must give a copy of the child's Disability Living Award letter to make a claim.			

Providers should then discuss with the parent if they wish a claim to be made and how the funding claimed will be spent to benefit their child or the setting. We advise documenting any discussion you may have with the parent, alongside their parental agreement as well as retaining any invoices/receipts to show how the child's funding was spent.

How do I claim DAF?

To claim and be paid DAF alongside the child's Under 2's Working Family Entitlement funding a provider must;

- Confirm the child is nominated for DAF on the 'Funding Details' screen, on the child's headcount claim, as shown below.

Nominated for DAF*

Yes No

- Then, please send to the Funding Team or upload the following supporting evidence:
 - A copy of the signed parental agreement dated after **1 April 2026**.
 - A copy of the child latest award letter from the Department of Work and Pensions to confirm they are being paid Disability Living Allowance. This must clearly show payment for the child is still being made on headcount week, for the term your claim is made.

The headcount claim and all evidence must be received by the funding by the headcount deadline date, for the term DAF is being claimed.

Full details on DAF and details on how and where to send all supporting evidence can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

It is a providers' responsibility to ensure both the child's headcount claim, and all correct supporting evidence are submitted to the Funding Team by headcount deadline date. No claim for DAF will be paid if headcount or any supporting evidence is missing or submitted after our deadline. If supporting evidence is received late or is invalid, providers will be notified and advised to re-submit the child's DAF claim correctly in the following term instead, subject to the child still being eligible for DAF.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) – Can I claim this for a child claiming Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding?

Yes, eligible children aged 9-23 months claiming Under 2's Working Family Entitlement funding can be eligible and paid EYPP. Further details on EYPP including how much is payable, how eligibility is checked and what EYPP may be used for, can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

How does a child qualify for EYPP?

The eligibility criteria for a child to qualify for EYPP is if their family are in receipt of certain income related benefits (economic grounds) **OR** the child has been adopted or is currently in foster care and has a 'looked after status.' If a child or siblings have qualified for 'free school meals' this does not mean a child will then also automatically qualify for EYPP.

For a child to be checked to see if they qualify on 'economic grounds,' we carry out an automatic check when processing your termly headcount claim. However, we can only do this if a provider has correctly completed the screen below, all highlighted information shown is added, and ticked the EYPP consent box.

Parent / Carer Details	
Forename*	<input type="text"/>
Surname*	<input type="text"/>
DOB*	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Contact Number	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NI* or <input type="checkbox"/> NASS Number*	<input type="text"/>
Tick to give consent to Eligibility Checking for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EYPP <input type="checkbox"/> Working Family Eligibility

If one or more pieces of information are missing, the automatic check cannot be completed. This may mean a provider is missing out on receiving additional early years funding for a child.

The other criteria that may apply for EYPP, is if a child has 'looked after' status. We are unable to check whether a child qualifies on this basis, using your headcount data. We therefore need providers to be aware from their contact with any parent/carer if a child meets these criteria. If a child's adoption or placement was carried out via North Yorkshire, then our child record may have EYPP added. However, if the child was placed via a different local authority, we may need

additional evidence from the parent/carer to be provided by you before we can add EYPP to your headcount claim.

How do I know if a child has been found eligible for EYPP?

Once all termly headcount claims are processed and the Portal is re-opened for providers to check claims, this is when you should also check if any children you expected to have EYPP, have this shown. If a child has been found eligible, you will see the initials 'EYPP' for the child in the 'weightings column,' if they are eligible.

Once you have checked headcount, if there is a child you would have expected to qualify for EYPP either on 'economic' or 'looked after' criteria who is not shown with this on the Portal, we ask that you notify the team at eyft@northyorks.gov.uk. Please confirm the name and date of birth of the child and why you believe the child should qualify e.g., 'economic grounds' or because they have 'looked after' status. We can then review the headcount and child data held and advise further.

To amend and include EYPP on your headcount for a child, we would need to be contacted by a provider and any further details/evidence submitted by the deadline given for all termly headcount checks to be completed. This deadline will be included in our email to providers when sent asking for headcount to be checked.

How much is EYPP and what can EYPP be used for?

Full details on EYPP including information on the additional funding payable and how to use EYPP to benefit a child can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

Can I stretch funding for a child claiming Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding?

Yes, as with a child claiming 2YO or 3&4 YO funding, if you are a provider that offers 'stretched' funding to parents you can also do this for any child aged 9-23 months old if you wish. Further details on 'stretching' funding and how this should be claimed can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

My setting usually accepts children for early years funding the term after a child 2nd birthday. Do I have to offer Under 2YO Working Family Entitlement Funding?

It is a providers business choice as to what funded places they wish to offer, but if they wish to offer Under 2-year-old funded places they must be registered for the correct age range and ensure they work within the correct ratios as per EYFS. There is also no requirement for you to offer this type of funding if a parent requests that you do so.

Can I claim Under 2YO funding for a child that turns 2 during the term? I have checked and the parent holds a valid Under 2YO's Working Family Entitlement Code for the term.

Again, this is for each individual setting to decide. However, if you decide to offer Working Family funded hours to a child once they turn 2, rather than waiting until the term after their 2nd birthday, this means you would claim their funding in this initial term as 'Under 2YO Working Family funding.'

How this would work to then claim their funding will depend upon when the child turns 2 and whether headcount week in that the term is before or after the child's 2nd birthday.

If a child turns 2 once term starts but before headcount week, is registered and attending for their funded hours with you on headcount week as expected, then you will add them onto your main termly headcount in the usual way.

You should claim their funding on headcount as 'Under 2YO's' and your claim should be for the full number of funded weeks in that term, regardless of their start date with you because they are registered/attending with you on headcount week.

If a child turns 2 during headcount week and you accept them to start accessing funding part way through headcount week, you will add them onto your main termly headcount in the usual way and claim their funding on headcount as 'Under 2YO's'. Your claim should also be for the full number of funded weeks in that term, regardless of their start date with you because they are registered/attending with you on headcount week. However, you should only claim on for the number of funded hours the child is shown on your register as attending and accessing on headcount week.

If a child's 2nd birthday is after headcount week and you have agreed to accept them to start with your provision to access a funded place 'after headcount' week, this then becomes an 'after headcount' claim. From April 2026, after headcount funding claims can only be made on the following basis:

For childminders: Funding will continue to be adjusted for children who move in and out of their provision after the termly headcount date, where the child has been recorded on a headcount in the current term with a North Yorkshire provider. However, for children accessing funded hours for the first time, after headcount funding will only be able to be claimed for children who have moved into North Yorkshire between the headcount deadline date for the funded term and the after-headcount deadline date for the funded term, and the child has not accessed a funded place at another early years' provider within North Yorkshire in the funded term.

For private, voluntary and independent providers and schools and academies: After headcount funding will only be able to be claimed for children who have moved into North Yorkshire between the headcount deadline date for the funded term and the after-headcount deadline for the funded term, and the child has not accessed a funded place at another early years' provider within North Yorkshire in the funded term.

As advised in our letter to providers from January 2026, providers should consider their individual business response and parental communication arrangements where a parent, who has not newly moved into North Yorkshire wishes to take up a funded place after the termly headcount deadline date.

If an 'after headcount' claim can be made, providers should follow our 'after headcount' guidance that will be issued by email during the week following headcount deadline. Please also be aware that providers may also be required to provide evidence to show the date a parent or parents moved into North Yorkshire to support a claim being made. Further details will be advised if evidence is required.