

Early years government support in England – example families

The following profiles are example fictional families, to demonstrate the differences in government support available to families on different incomes and in different circumstances in England.

3. Family only eligible for 15 hours government childcare support, despite both being in work

Who they are: Dad, Adil, is a full-time roofer earning £34,000 and Mum, Zara, is a beautician working 10 hours a week and National Living wage. Her income is £5,400 They have a son, Marley, who is 3 years old. They live in the North East of England. They said their child to nursery part time for 15 hours.

Total household income: £39,400

Childcare subsidies: The family receives 15 hours of childcare per week free in term time (Zara's mum is able to help with childcare during nursery holidays, but not all year round). They don't qualify for 30 hours because Zara doesn't work enough hours. Zara would like to increase her hours but can't because there is no one to care for Marley. The family do qualify for universal credit and could get 85% of childcare costs covered for any additional hours, but cannot afford to make up the difference.

Childcare costs: None

Total costs of childcare: None

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Childcare costs: None

Total costs of childcare: None

3. Family only eligible for 15 hours government childcare support, despite one being in full-time work and the other a full-time student

Who they are: Dad, Alex, is a full-time plumber earning £40,400 and Mum is a student nurse in the final year of her course. As a full-time student, Mum Maryam doesn't get paid. They have a 4-year-old boy called Leo. They live in the West Midlands. They send their child to nursery full time (50 hours).

Total household income: £40,400

Childcare subsidies: The family receives 15 hours per week of childcare at nursery during term time. They don't qualify for 30 hours as Mum Maryam is a student. They don't receive Universal Credit.

Childcare costs: The family pay for extra nursery hours so that their son Leo can attend full time, and they have to pay full costs outside of term time, costing on average over the year of £284 per week or £1,135 a month.

Total costs of childcare: £1,135 a month (34% of income per year)

Methodology notes: Average salary information for roles from The Coram Childcare Survey 2023. Childcare costs by region from the [Coram Childcare Survey 2023](#), with adjustments made for additional government entitlements (e.g. hour entitlements, tax breaks) and estimates for the cost of extras not included in averages fees e.g. lunch, provided confidentially to the Sutton Trust by an early years provider. Overall year costs calculated for 50 weeks of the year (2 weeks of nursery closures e.g. for Christmas break), taking into account entitlements only run for 38 weeks of the year. Government websites used to determine eligibility for 15 hour and 30 hour entitlements, as well as other benefits such as tax support on childcare and 85% of childcare costs for those on Universal Credit.