**3 to 4-year-olds**

You can start claiming free childcare after your child turns 3. The date you can claim will depend on when their birthday is.

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| --- | --- |
| **Child’s birthday** | **When you can claim** |
| 1 January to 31 March | the beginning of term on or after 1 April |
| 1 April to 31 August | the beginning of term on or after 1 September |
| 1 September to 31 December | the beginning of term on or after 1 January |

Example

Your child was born on 15 February 2012. They can get free early education and childcare from the start of term following 1 April 2015.

The free early education and childcare can be at:

* all types of nurseries and nursery classes
* playgroups and pre-school
* childminders
* Sure Start Children’s Centres

You can’t continue to claim free childcare once your child starts reception class in a state school.