



Help with the cost of childcare

From nurseries, childminders and pre-schools, to after school care and holiday clubs, there are a number of childcare options in Dorset for children of all ages. There are also options available to help parents with the cost of childcare.



Free childcare for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

All parents of 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free childcare a week and working parents could be eligible for up to 30 hours free childcare a week.

Parents of 2 year olds could also be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare if they meet certain criteria.

If your child has special educational needs (SEN) or a disability your childcare provider could get money to help support your child's needs. You can search our website for childcare providers that have given details on how they support children with SEN and disabilities (their local offer).

Other funding for working parents

Tax-Free Childcare reduces the costs of childcare for working families of children aged 0 to 12 years (up to 17 years for disabled children).

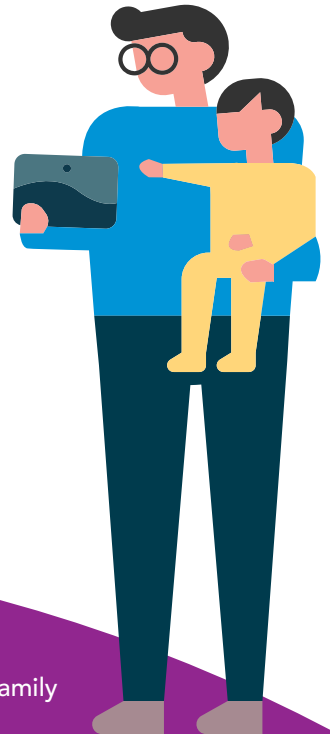
Parents on a low income may be better off claiming the childcare element of Tax Credits or Universal Credits.

Help if you're studying

Parents who are under 20 and in education could receive payments from Care to Learn. There is also support available for parents in further or higher education.

Find the right funding for your family

For more information and to check your eligibility, visit childcarechoices.gov.uk. Here you can find a link to the childcare calculator to help you to work out which schemes are best for you.



Get local information and support

For more information, or further support contact Dorset's Family Information Service:

-  dorsetforyou.gov.uk/childcare
-  facebook.com/dorsetfis
-  01305 221066
-  familyinfo@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Sign up to our parent e-newsletter
dorsetforyou.gov.uk/parent-newsletter