

# Cobtree Playschool for Special Children

## Over view of Early Years Funding

### Parent Guide

May 2020

- **Universal Funding - 15 hours**

All three and four year olds in England are eligible for 570 hours of free early years education or childcare per year. It is usually taken as 15 hours a week, for 38 weeks of the year.

The date you can start claiming depends on your child's birthday. Claims will start the term after your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. ( 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> January). Free early education places ceases when your child starts reception class in a state school.

As an approved provider of Early Years education, at Cobtree Playschool we can offer a maximum of 9 hours per week over 38 weeks, term time.

Families can share this 15 hours of universal funding between to 2 providers.

A parent declaration will need to be signed each term, to confirm hours for each setting is supporting.

- **Extended entitlement - 30 hours of free early education**

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

From September 2017, parents of three and four-year-old children may be eligible to receive up to 30 hours of free early years education.

This extended entitlement is to support working parents to manage the cost of childcare, to support parents into work, or to enable parents to increase their working hours.

A child will be entitled to additional 15 hours of Free Early Education and childcare from the term after both of the following conditions have been satisfied:

- the child has attained the age of three
- where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and where each parent earns, on average a weekly minimum equivalent of 16 hours at national minimum wage, and earns less than £100,000 per year.

An eligible child can receive entitlement from the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday until they start reception class at school.

**Parents will need to apply for 30 hours' free childcare online the digital childcare service.**

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

A 30-hour eligibility code will be given.

Each setting will need to validate the code, the parents NI number and the child's DOB, with our local authority for the child to take up their 30 hour place.

For further information of the childcare choices the government is introducing to help with childcare costs go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

- **Tax free child care –**

Tax free childcare and 30 hours free childcare are two separate government schemes, to help parents with the cost of childcare. You can apply for both through one online application – **the childcare service**.

Children are eligible for tax free childcare if all the following apply:

- ... your child is under 12, or 17 if they are registered as having a disability
- ...usually lives with their parent
- ...parent (s) are 16 or over
- ...live or work in the UK
- ...are employed or self- employed
- ...are over 21 and earn at least £120 a week
- ...earn less than £100,000 a year, each
- ...do not get other support with childcare, including from a childcare voucher or salary sacrifice scheme.

Parents can use tax free childcare alongside the 15 and 30 hours' free childcare schemes.

Parents cannot use tax free childcare at the same time as they receive childcare vouchers, universal credit or tax credits. However, 30 hours free childcare can be received alongside these schemes.

**Parents need to apply for a childcare care service account, for tax free childcare or 30 hours of free childcare.** When you apply, parents will be considered for both these services through the same application. Parents will be asked to decide which support that they want if they are on tax credits or using a childcare voucher or salary sacrifice scheme. Please check what help you could get with childcare costs using the **childcare calculator** to decide what is best for you.

[www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare) ( step by step guide)

[www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator)

Cobtree Playschool is currently in the processing of signing up to Tax Free Childcare, to be able to receive payments.

- **Early years Pupil Premium. (EYPP)**

This is additional funding available for settings to improve and support learning and development within the setting for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year old children, whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits, or who are in care or adopted from care. This currently amounts to £302.10 pa for any child receiving universal funding of 15 hours of free education.

Parents will be asked to sign the relevant section on their “Parental Declaration form”. As your provider we will be able to complete the online process .

Your application will be received by KCC management information who will carry out the necessary checks to ensure your child is eligible for this funding. EYPP funding is paid directly to our setting.

- **Free for 2 year olds – FF2**

Some children are entitled to free early education from the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday if the child or parent meets the eligibility criteria.

The scheme is currently available to 2 years’ olds: ...

- ...who are looked after by the local authority
- ...who are no longer looked after by the local authority as a result of an adoption order, special guardianship order or a residence order.
- ...who have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHCP)
- ...whose parents receive specific benefits.

FF2 funding is available to eligible families for up to 570 hours per year. It can be taken as 15 hours over 38 weeks. Parents do not have to take the full 15 hours if they feel it is too long for their child.

Families have the option to split the funding with up to 2 settings.

Parent are asked to complete an online registration at [www.kent.gov.uk/freefor2](http://www.kent.gov.uk/freefor2). An eligibility email will be sent to confirm your child is entitled for FF2. Funding can only be claimed on receipt of this email or eligibility confirmed.

A parent declaration will need to be signed at the beginning of each term, to continue the claim for that term. Eligible 2 year olds remain entitled to this place until the 3-year-old funding starts.

- **Sen inclusion fund (SENIF)**

From April 2017, it is now a statutory requirement for the local authority to provide additional top up support for settings supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. This will be known as the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF). Kent was previously one of the few area authorities that offered this through SCARF funding; (severe complex accessibility and resources funding)

The new process will take place from September 2017.

To be Eligible...

- Children must be attending a Kent setting.
- SENIF can be considered for pre-school children who do not have a EHCP. (if a child has a Final EHCP they will be receiving funding elsewhere.)

- Children must be in receipt of nursery education entitlement at 3 or 4 years old, for a maximum of 30 hours a week over 38 weeks a year.
- It is non-statutory to provide this funding for two year olds in receipt of nursery education entitlement, but Kent will continue to fund support for these children up to a maximum of 15 hours.
- Children with an agreed, evidenced deferred entry to school can be considered at a SENIF complex Case Panel Meeting.

All applications for SENIF will need evidence that the child's needs are recognised as requiring SEN Support as defined in the SEND code of practice 0-25.

For Level one support...

Evidence will need to show that with best practice strategies, the child is assessed to be at one level below their expected age band in two or more aspects of their prime area of learning, and that adult support is required to remove barriers to learning for over 40% of the time.

For level two support...

All evidence at level one will need to be seen and in addition, the child will probably be known to the Portage service due to profound, severe or complex needs, and the family will probably have an Early Support Key- worker. Evidence will also show that the child is assessed at two or more levels below their expected age band in four or more aspects of the prime area of learning. A high level of adult support is required to remove barriers to learning for over 75% of the time.

Consideration for level 2 support will also be given if a child is assessed at their expected age band, whilst having a complex health condition that may be unpredictable or unstable, or if the child has significant sensory needs.

All applications will be submitted electronically via [SENIF@kent.gov.uk](mailto:SENIF@kent.gov.uk).

SENIF funding once agreed, will usually be for one year, and paid monthly into the account of the setting. Applications for support can be made at any time throughout the year, applications will be considered as they are received.

- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

Disability living allowance for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16, has difficulties walking or needs more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. The rates available will depend on the level of help that a child needs. The child may be assessed to work out what help they need. Parents are to use the DLA claim form to apply for DLA. The form tells you where to send your application.

Guidance and support is available from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

- **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**

The government has announced increased support for children with disabilities through the introduction of a Disability Access Fund (DAF). This fund will provide £615 per year for every eligible child. Claiming for this funding will require evidence via a copy of the child's Disability Living Allowance certificate (DLA).

Eligible children for DAF will be 3 and 4 year olds, be in receipt of DLA and access their funded entitlement.

Parents will need to nominate a provider to receive this funding. Where a child attends more than one setting parents will need to choose which setting is to receive this funding. The Funding is for providers to make reasonable adjustments to our setting, for example, resources, modifications and training for their setting for the benefit of the child.

Cobtree playschool will need to a copy of the DLA certificate and have consent to upload these to a secure area of data exchange.

Cobtree Playschool will use this funding to support our provision to be able to give the high level of care and support we have embedded in our ethos of practice. The Funding for example could include supporting the child's Physiotherapy sessions, the specialist equipment and resources required to meet their individual needs, or training needed to ensure the skills of staff and one to one helpers are updated to support their inclusion, or adaptations to an area of our hall to support access. We will work closely with parents to ensure that this annual funding is used to meet the requirements and needs to support their child.