

# FREE early learning: when can your child start?



Walsall wants all of our young children to enjoy the benefits of free early learning for up to 15 hours per week before they start school



Like you, we  
want the best  
for our children

We know that  
attending free  
early learning  
can make a  
big difference

Your child can  
make friends,  
play and have  
fun, and learn  
and develop

All children in Walsall can start the term after their third birthday. Some children can also start when they are 2. Talk to your local early learning providers and childminders. Or contact Walsall Council's dedicated team direct on 01922 653383, [walsallfis@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:walsallfis@walsall.gov.uk) or apply online at [www.mywalsall.org/fis](http://www.mywalsall.org/fis)

We can help you claim your free hours and find a quality provider in your local area.

- Each child is entitled to up to 570 hours during a year.
- You can take your **FREE** hours either termly (over 38 weeks) or spread over the full year (up to 48 weeks), if available at your chosen provider.
- You have the choice to only take the **FREE** entitlement hours if that is all you want, and this is completely **FREE** to you. You don't have to buy extra hours.
- Your child can take a packed lunch if you do not wish to purchase a meal from your provider.
- If your child attends two different early learning settings, you can split the hours between the two.
- If you buy extra childcare hours, any bill/invoice you receive should be clear and should **NOT** show the **FREE** funded hours deducted from the total bill.
- Walsall Council pays your chosen provider directly for the **FREE** hours you receive.
- You **DO NOT** have to pay towards any **FREE** funded hours. Providers are not allowed to charge you for any difference between their own prices and the payments they receive from us.