# Update: Government-Funded Childcare Scheme

# May 2024

1. **Eligibility Criteria.**

* Parents can apply online through [Get free childcare if you're working: step by step - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/get-free-childcare-if-youre-working) once they have checked the eligibility criteria. Make sure to have the necessary information such as national insurance number, date of starting or due to start work, details of government support or benefits, and the UK birth certificate reference number for your child.

2. **Application Process.**

* Applications can take up to 7 days for approval. Once approved, parents will receive a code to give to their childcare provider.

3.  **Reconfirmation.**

* Codes need to be reconfirmed every three months. Parents applying before 1 June must reconfirm their code prior to the offer starting in September. This ensures seamless access to the childcare scheme.

4.**Tax-Free Childcare.**

* Eligible parents can also access Tax-Free Childcare through the same application system. However, applying for Tax-Free Childcare is not mandatory to apply for the 15 hours childcare scheme.

5. **Existing Tax-Free Childcare Recipients.**

* Parents registered for Tax-Free Childcare must reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months. Those who reconfirm before 12 May will automatically receive a code in the post from HMRC by 24 May.

6.  **Dual Codes.**

* If parents receive a code in a letter from HMRC (beginning with 11) and a digital code from the website (beginning with 50), they should provide the digital code (beginning with 50) to their childcare provider.

7.  **Validation of Codes**.

* Once parents receive their code, they should take it to their childcare provider or send it to the EY team at Hammersmith and Fulham for validation.

**Please ensure to reach out to your preferred childcare provider to inquire about their requirements and apply by the start of the school summer holidays.**