

# childcare

## advice guide



**Kevin Foster MP**

**A FREE information  
booklet from your local  
Member of Parliament**

Dear Resident,

I know childcare can be one of the biggest costs facing hardworking families in Torbay.

Earlier this year, Torbay was chosen by the government as one of 14 trailblazer local authorities to lead the way in delivering Family Hubs locally. Family Hubs are a new way of bringing together all the support a family may need, from pregnancy through to young people turning 19 (or 25 if they have special educational needs or disabilities).

As your MP I want you to be informed on the help which is available, so our bay's next generation can get the best start in life. I've therefore created this brief guide to outline the support you and your family can access right here in our local area which includes:

- Free childcare and education for 2 year olds for qualifying families
- 30 hours free childcare for 3 to 4 year-olds
- Up to £2,000 tax-free childcare
- 3 Family Hubs, including the Beehive in Bishop's Place, Paignton & Zigzags in Market St, Torquay.

To learn more about the support available to families you can visit

[torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families](https://torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families),

email [familyhub@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:familyhub@torbay.gov.uk) or call 01803 210 200. You can also contact me directly using the details at the end of this guide.

Yours sincerely

*Kevin*

**Kevin Foster MP**  
MP for Torbay



# Are you eligible for free childcare?

## 15 hours free childcare

Every household deserves support, that's why all 3 and 4 year-olds can access 15 hours of free childcare every week no matter the income or working status of their parents.

## 30 hours free childcare

If that isn't enough, depending on your income you may be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare.

It's available at participating:

- Full day care (e.g nurseries)
- Schools
- Childminders
- Sessional providers (e.g. playgroups)
- Sure Start Children's Centres
- After school clubs

You can find more information at [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk).

# Tax-free Childcare

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting everyone. That's why there's now support for families who aren't currently receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit childcare vouchers.

Working families, including the self-employed, may be eligible for up to £2000 tax-free childcare.

Children aged 0–11 (or 16 if disabled) are covered under the scheme.



**Torbay is a Trailblazer area for family hubs, a major new government initiative to support families, and it would be odd not to mention these in a local childcare guide. Could we add an extra page in to discover this.**

## Family Hubs

There are three Family Hubs across Torbay, building on the work done by our bay's children centres with a great Start for Life offer at their core.

Family Hubs are a great place to meet professionals who can support you and your family – like health visitors, maternity services and family support workers. For expectant parents and those with babies and young children, this includes help with parenting, infant feeding and support for parents/carers to manage their own wellbeing.

It can often be difficult to find information about raising children or where to go to for help. The virtual Start for Life and Family Hub brings together useful websites to give you a helping hand.

By using Torbay's virtual Start for Life and Family Hub, you can access information on:

- Health and wellbeing advice for you and your family
- Community support networks
- Activities, classes and things to do across the Bay
- Support for adults including housing and financial advice.

You can find more information about Family Hubs online at [torbayfamilyhub.org.uk](https://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk) or by emailing [amilyhubtorbay@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:amilyhubtorbay@actionforchildren.org.uk) or calling 01803 210200



# Support for the most vulnerable

You and your family could be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit.

Claim up to £950.92 for 1 child or £1630.15 for 2 or more children.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for this scheme, call the Universal Credit helpline on **0800 328 5644**.

We know that not everyone can pay for childcare upfront. If support offered through the Universal Credit system isn't right for your family, then the Flexible Support Fund might be.

The Flexible Support Fund breaks down barriers to work, such as travel and childcare costs.

Money awarded does not have to be paid back and comes on top of other benefits. The fund is managed by your work coach, contact your local job centre to find out more.

**Kevin Foster MP**

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