



30 Hours of Free Childcare

What is 30 Hours Childcare?

- Currently, all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free Early Education.
- From September 17, eligible children will be entitled to an additional 15 hours
- The new entitlement to 30 hours free childcare is intended to support working parents with the cost of childcare and enable them, where they wish, to return to work or to work additional hours.

What is the eligibility criteria for the additional free entitlement will include households where?

- All parents (whether two-parent family or lone parent) are working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage (includes income received from tax credits or Universal Credit) and/or:
 - One/ both parent/s is away on leave (paternity and maternity leave)
 - One/ both parent/s is on Statutory sick pay;
- Parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible as there are those who are registered as self-employed;
- One parent is employed and the other parent has either substantial caring responsibilities/ and or disability, is a foster carer with their own three- and four-year-old children;
- Parents who are in training will not be eligible as they can receive other Government support;
- There is an income cap. If one parent's income exceeds £100k the household will not be eligible.

An online application and eligibility checking system is being developed. Eligible parents will receive an eligibility code that they can take to a childcare provider. LAs will then be able to validate eligibility codes. We will provide more information on the eligibility checking system as it becomes available.