

# Free Early Education Places for 3 and 4 Year Olds in Doncaster



**Information on where your child can access a place  
and where to apply**



**School Nursery Applications: Apply online  
and instantly be sent your receipt**

The Families Information Service can be contacted on 0800 1384568 or 01302 862136, by email at [FIS@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:FIS@doncaster.gov.uk) or visit the website [www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info](http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info)

The School Admissions Team can be contacted on 01302 737205 or by email at [admissions@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@doncaster.gov.uk)



**Doncaster**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## What is a free early education place?

A free early education place gives your 3 or 4 year old child the chance to learn, make new friends, experience new activities and build their confidence. It also supports school readiness and your child's development. In addition the 30 hours entitlement aims to support working parents and parents wishing to increase their working hours or to take up work. This will create savings for eligible parents of up to £5,000 per year.

## Free early education entitlements

**15 hours** free early education per week, for 38 weeks of the year (term time), which equates to up to 570 hours over a year, this is a universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds.

**30 hours for working parents who meet the eligibility criteria** free early education per week for 38 weeks of the year (term time), which equates to up to 1140 hours over a year, this is for 3 and 4 year olds from working families that meet the eligibility criteria. The 30 hours will consist of the current 15 hours universal entitlement and an additional 15 hours which will be known as the 'extended entitlement'

## When can my child take up a free place?

15 hours:

Your child will be able to take up their place from the term after their birthday.

<b>A child born between:</b>	<b>Is eligible from the start of the:</b>	<b>Take up the place before:</b>
1 September – 31 December	Spring Term in January	18 January
1 January – 31 March	Summer Term in April	17 May
1 April – 31 August	Autumn Term in September	4 October

15 hour extended entitlement:

Your child can take up a place when both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the term after the child's third birthday
- the term following the date the parent received an eligibility code

Please note: if the eligibility code is received mid-term, the child cannot access a place until the beginning of the following term.

## Will I have to pay anything for my child's place?

No, the 15 / 30 hours early education place will be delivered free to the parent. There will be a charge for additional hours, meals and any extra services should the parent want to take up these services. However the parent is likely to have the option to supply any consumables or a meal / snack for their child and it must not be a condition on taking up any part of the 15/30 free hours that a parent has to pay a fee.

## Where can I get information from?

Contact the Families Information Service to find out where your child can take up their place, undertake a childcare / school search and frequently asked questions: Website [www.doncaster.gov.uk/FIS](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/FIS) Telephone 0800 138 4568 Email [fis@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:fis@doncaster.gov.uk)

The Childcare Choices website which includes free childcare options, a link to the 30 hours application page and a childcare calculator which compares the childcare offers and checks what works best for a family.  
Website [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## When and how do I apply?

### **Childcare Providers 15 and 30 hours and School Nursery 15 hours extended entitlement**

Contact the school or childcare provider directly to check if they offer these places and have any available. The parent needs to follow the schools / childcare providers own admission policy and administration process to secure a place.

### **School Nursery 15 hours universal entitlement**

You can apply for one school nursery by completing an application form or you can apply online at [www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions) (except church schools).

For church schools complete section 2 of the form. You must attach a copy of your baptism certificate or a reference from your Parish Priest/ Minister of religion if you have one. Return your form directly to the school. If you make a further successful application, any previous places offered will automatically be withdrawn.

## When do I apply for a school nursery?

The closing date for school nursery applications is 2 October 2017. Applying late makes a big difference to your chances of getting a place

## When do I find out about my school nursery application?

Letters are posted to parents on 6 November 2017.

Due to the volume of applications and data protection, no decisions will be given over the phone.

## School admission dates

Children are normally admitted to a school nursery in the September following their third birthday.

## Early places in school

If places are available children are admitted the term after their third birthday and are admitted in criteria and date of birth order. If an early place is not available the Families Information Service can also provide you with details of other registered providers.

## What happens if I don't get a place in school?

Your child will be placed on a waiting list and you are able to apply for an alternative nursery including providers from the private, voluntary and independent sector. You can also contact the Family Information Service for details of other providers in your area.

## What happens if I apply late?

Late applications are dealt with on a regular basis after those who apply on time receive their decisions.

## Important – Reception places

You must apply again for reception places.

**The closing date is 15 January 2019.**

Attendance at a school nursery is not normally part of the admission to reception criteria. There is no automatic right of admission into a reception class. All parents must apply for the school they wish to attend.

## Fraudulent applications

The Council makes every effort to ensure places are offered fairly.

Fraud is taken very seriously and all allegations are thoroughly checked and places withdrawn if necessary.