

# 30 HOURS FREE childcare for working families



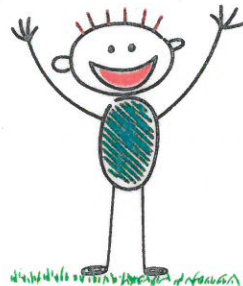
All three and four-year-old children can currently receive up to 15 hours free early education per week over 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year). This entitlement can also be “stretched” at some childcare providers, which means that fewer hours can be taken over more weeks of the year, commonly offered as 11 hours per week each week of the year.



## Additional 15 hours

From September 2017, working parents with a three or four-year-old child will be entitled to an additional 570 hours of childcare per year, meaning their three or four-year old will be able to receive up to 1,140 hours free childcare and early education.

You may have heard of this as “30 hours free childcare”. Three and four-year-olds in eligible working families will get an additional 15 hours free childcare, equalling 30 hours free per week over 38 weeks of the year (term-time) or approximately 22 hours per week each week of the year.



## Eligibility criteria

Both parents must be in work as defined below, or for single parent families, the sole parent must be at work.

- ‘In work’ is defined as being in employment (including self-employed) and earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage (from April 2017, this is £112.80 per week for 21 to 24-year-olds and £120.00 per week for over 25-year-olds).
- Each parent must earn less than £100,000 per year.

There are some exceptions, and families will also be eligible if both parents are employed but one parent (or both parents) are:

- temporarily away from the workplace on maternity, paternity, adoption or parental leave;
- temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay;

Or if:

- One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring;
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated and in receipt of specific benefits.

## The child must be the correct age as shown below...

Children who turn 3 between:	Are eligible for their free entitlement from:
1 January to 31 March	1 April
1 April to 31 August	1 September
1 September to 31 December	1 January

## Using the additional free hours

You will be able to use the additional free hours at any Ofsted registered childcare provider who is taking part in the scheme.

You are able to use the funding at no more than two providers in a day and three in a week, offering flexibility to parents, and you are able to use the funding for no more than 10 hours a day between 6am and 8pm.

You can also “stretch” the entitlement by using fewer hours across more weeks of the year where the childcare provider can accommodate it.

## How to apply

Applications for the additional hours must be made to HMRC online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). If you are successful, you will be issued with a code which you must provide to your chosen childcare provider.

Every three months, families will need to re-confirm their eligibility on the HMRC website to continue with the funding.

**If eligibility is not reconfirmed, parents will lose the additional free hours for their child.**

