



30 Free Hours of Childcare

Frequently Asked Questions

From September 2017, working parents of 3 to 4-year-olds in England became eligible for 30 hours of free childcare.

Will my child get it?

Not necessarily as not everyone is eligible for the extended entitlement. However, everyone will still have access to the 15 hours of free childcare that is currently available; this is a universal entitlement for all children starting the term after their third birthday.

Am I eligible to receive the extended entitlement?

The extended entitlement is in addition to the universal 15 hours entitlement, providing an extra 15 hours a week of free childcare for families that meet the eligibility criteria. It will be available to families where:

You (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work - or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week - this is £120 if you're over 25

This earnings limit doesn't apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You're not eligible if:

- your child doesn't usually live with you
- the child is your foster child
- either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

If you can't work

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance