



## Guidelines to 30 Hours Funding

Childcare  
Choices

### 30 Hours Free Childcare

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England already get 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of free early education.

If their parents are living and working in England, 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare. Free childcare is offered by the government during term-time only. An extra 570 hours of free childcare a year, so 1140 hours in total.

30 hours free childcare will be available from September 2017.

### What additional support can I get alongside 30 Hours Funding?

The eligibility criteria for 30 hours are the same as the ones for Tax-Free Childcare, except you can continue to get these types of support at the same time as 30 hours free childcare:

- Tax credits
- Universal Credit
- Childcare vouchers or salary sacrifice schemes

- Childcare grants and bursaries

### Who can apply?

Parents need to earn, on average, at least the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage per week (currently £115.20 per week for over 25s), and no more than £100,000 per year.

Self-employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings criteria.

Families where one parent is not in paid employment (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for the additional hours. There are exceptions for parents who are on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption or sick leave.

Parents who are studying or in training will not be eligible unless this is combined with paid work which meets the minimum average earnings threshold.

○ When will my 30 hours free childcare start?

30 hours free childcare is only available for children over the age of 3 however you can apply for this at any time. Please be aware that you will have to re-confirm your information every 3 months.

When your son/daughter turns 3 your 30 hours will start the following term. AKA. If they are born on 21<sup>st</sup> March, there 30 hours would start the beginning of the Summer Term. However, if they are born 5<sup>th</sup> April, their funding will start Autumn Term.

○ Anything else I need to know?

Every three months you will be required to log into your childcare service account. This is to confirm that your circumstances haven't changed in the last three months.

You will receive an email approximately 3 weeks prior to when your 3 months are up to remind you to re-confirm your current circumstances.

There is a possibility that you may lose your 30 hours free childcare if your

circumstances change AND/OR if you haven't re-confirmed your child's eligibility.

## How do I apply for 30 hours free childcare?

To apply for either Tax-Free Childcare OR 30 Hours Free Childcare, you need to apply via the GOV.UK website. To do this you will have to create/use your childcare service account.

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>

You can either apply for Tax-Free Childcare or 30 Hours Free Childcare. It's one single application but GOV.UK will check your eligibility for both.

When you start you'll temporarily leave this site to verify your identity. Once your identity's been verified, you'll be brought back to this site to complete your application. You'll then get a childcare service account.

**Your application or account will timeout after 15 minutes of inactivity.**

**You should make sure you have all the details you need, before you start.**

Make sure you have (for you and your partner, if you have one):

- your National Insurance number
- if you're self-employed, your Unique Taxpayer Reference
- the date you started, or are due to start work
- details of any other government support you get

## Childcare Calculator?

The GOV.UK has a Childcare calculator available on their website that allows parents and carers to use the calculator and find out how much you can get towards approved childcare, including:

- Free Childcare for children aged between 2yrs and 4yrs.
- Help with childcare costs if your child is under 16 yrs. (or under 17yrs if disabled)

Parents can get up to £2000 government support per child per year towards their childcare costs.

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>