Extended Hours Free Childcare for 3&4-year olds for Working Parents

# What you need to know

* All 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to up to 15 hours of free early education per week over 38 weeks. This can be stretched across more weeks, although the entitlement (570 hours annually) remains the same, so long as your childcare provider agrees.
* Working parents who meet the eligibility criteria are entitled to an extra 15 hours of free childcare / early education per week over 38 weeks. This can be stretched over the whole year to better suit your needs as a working parent but the entitlement (570 hours annually) remains the same.
* You may wish to use more than one childcare provider to ensure you can access your entitlement.

# What you need to do

**STEP 1**

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare> to check your eligibility and complete your application

**STEP 2**

Your eligibility will be assessed based on the information you submit and HMRC data

If successful you will be shown confirmation that an account has been created on the system.

**STEP 3**

If you are eligible for the **additional 15 hours** per week, you will receive an eligibility code in your secure account.

**STEP 4**

Take your eligibility code to your childcare provider and arrange your place.

The code will be validated by the childcare provider before you are offered a place. Please note you cannot start a funded placement at a setting if your code is in its Grace period.

**STEP 5**

Once the eligibility code has been validated, agree a start date with the childcare provider and your child will be able to use the provision for the length of the validity period. Your child’s funded placement can only commence the term after they have turned 3 yrs. of age.

**Revalidation**

You will receive notification to reconfirm your eligibility for the **additional 15 hours** before the code’s validity end date. This email will be sent from the Government Gateway account and not the Local Authority.

You will need to confirm that your circumstances have not changed or update the application if they have (step 2).