

# 30 hours free childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds

## Information for Professionals

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education for 38 weeks each year. From September 2017 there will be an additional 15 hours of free childcare available for families that meet the Government's eligibility criteria:

### Who is eligible?

- Both parents, or sole parent in a lone parent family, must be working and expect to earn (on average) at least £120 a week if over 25 years old or £112.80 a week if aged between 21 and 24 years old (this is equivalent to 16 hours at the current National Minimum or Living Wage). Parents do not have to be working 16 hours.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.

### Who is NOT eligible?

- If a child is in a full time reception place in a maintained school or academy.
- If either parent has an annual income of more than £100,000.
- If either parent is a non-EEA national and has no recourse to public funds.

Childcare  
**Ch**oices



## How do parents apply?

Parents will need to apply through the HMRC website: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

If eligible, they will receive an 11 digit code to take to their chosen childcare provider.

A child can access 30 hours from **the term after their 3rd birthday** provided their parent has received their code before the start of term (refer to the table below).

Parent receives code and child's 3rd birthday falls between:	Their free 30 hour place can start from the beginning of the:
1 January - 31 March	Summer term (April)
1 April - 31 August	Autumn term (early September)
1 September - 31 December	Spring term (early January)

For example, to access a 30 hour place from January, the child must be 3 year olds before 1st January and the parent needs to apply during the autumn term and receive their code before January.

## Ways you can help to raise awareness with the parents you work with:

- Signpost parents to the website to apply [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)
- If they need help to apply signpost them to the HMRC Customer Interaction Centre [0300 123 4097](tel:03001234097).
- Encourage parents to apply early, for example a couple of months before their child will be eligible to start their place to ensure they can access a place as soon as they are eligible.
- Explain that they can take all or part of their funded place and that it can be taken at different types of provision; private day nurseries, pre-schools, playgroups, childminders, out of school clubs, holiday schemes and nursery classes in maintained schools, academies, independent schools and free schools.
- Explain that some early education providers offer a stretched entitlement where children can access their free hours during school holidays, for example 11 hours (or 22 if eligible) each week for 51 weeks of the year.



**For further details contact the Childcare Sufficiency Team:**

Tel: [01484 225752](tel:01484225752)

Email: [feecteam@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:feecteam@kirklees.gov.uk)

Childcare  
**Choices**