

Working parent of a 3 or 4 year old?

Apply now to find out if you could claim
30 hours of free learning and childcare



How to apply

apply online at: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you need support with your application contact the Customer Interaction Centre on 0300 123 4097.

Apply early to receive your code in good time and before the deadline*. Codes issued after the deadline date cannot be used to access the additional 15 hours until the following term.

Child's 3rd birthday falls between:	Ideal time to apply	Application * Deadline	30 hour place can start from the beginning of the:
1 January - 31 March	January	31 March	Summer term (April)
1 April - 31 August	June	31 August	Autumn term (early September)
1 September - 31 December	October	31 December	Spring term (early January)

Eligible parents will receive an 11 digit eligibility code beginning with '500', 'temporary' codes may be issued in certain circumstances, these usually begin with '11'.



Reconfirming your code

Codes are valid for a period between 3 and 5 months to start with, you will need to re-confirm your eligibility before your code's valid end date, this can be done up to 28 days before this date.

You should receive an email or text to remind you to login into your childcare account and look at your secure messages where you will have a reminder to reconfirm.

Once a code has been re-confirmed, the validity period will then be 3 months.

If you forget to reconfirm your eligibility or your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible you will automatically fall into a grace period.

Grace Periods

The grace period enables parents to keep their childcare place for a period of time if they become ineligible for 30 hours. For example, if your code expires in the first half of a term the grace period will run up to the end of the current term. If your code expires in the second half of a term then the grace period will run up to the end of the following term. Important note: grace periods do not apply if children have not started accessing their free place.