

Extended 30 hours childcare entitlement for three and four year olds

The current funded childcare entitlement for three and four year olds is being increased from 15 to 30 hours per week for working parents, from September 2017. This change is to support working parents with the affordability of childcare and enable parents who want to work, or to work more hours, to do so.

The national roll out for the extended entitlement will be in September 2017. Parent's eligibility for the autumn term, starting in September 2017, will be checked using the HMRC online application system. This is now being rolled out, first to parents of the youngest children. Parents can register to be notified when they can apply for the autumn 2017 term on the [Childcare Choices](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

Tax-free childcare and 30 hours funded childcare

These are two separate government schemes, to help parents with the cost of childcare. You can apply for both through one online application - the childcare service.

To qualify for either scheme, parents must be working and each earning at least £120 a week (on average) and not more than £100,000 each a year.

Parents can use tax-free childcare alongside the 15 and 30 hours free childcare schemes in England, or any free childcare hours provided by the Scottish, Welsh or Northern Ireland governments.

Parents can't use tax-free childcare at the same time as they receive childcare vouchers, Universal Credit or tax credits. However, 30 hours free childcare can be received alongside these schemes.

When you apply, you'll be considered for both these services through the same application. You'll only be asked to decide which support you want if you're on tax credits or using a childcare voucher or salary sacrifice scheme. You should check what help you could get with childcare costs, using the childcare calculator. This will help you decide which support is best for you.

Further information on eligibility

A 'parent' is defined as a person who has parental responsibility or care for the child. In cases where a parent has remarried or is living with a partner, the step-parent or partner must also meet the earnings threshold. The definition of 'working' includes employed persons, self-employed persons and parents on zero hours contracts who meet the above criteria.

- All three and four year old children are entitled to the universal 15 hours funding per week, regardless of a parent's income.
- Please check that your chosen provider can offer the 30 hour extended childcare entitlement. Being eligible does not mean that a child will be guaranteed a place.
- Children in a maintained reception class are not eligible for the 30 hour extended childcare entitlement.
- Foster carers are eligible for the extended entitlement if they meet the criteria set out above for their own children. Foster carers are not eligible for the extended entitlement for the children that they foster.
- Two parent families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works), or lone parents who do not work will not be eligible for the extended entitlement.
- Where one parent is working (and meets the income requirements) and the other is not working because they are disabled or are in receipt of benefits relating to caring responsibilities or a disability (e.g. in receipt of carer's allowance), we will treat these households as eligible.

Help and support

If you need help completing the application form please contact the early years funding team on 01609 532970 or 532391.

If you have concerns about finding childcare to access your extended entitlement, please contact the families information service:

Email: fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk

Telephone: 01609 533483

Mobile: Text "info" to 07624 802425