

# 30 hours free childcare: Extended entitlement for working parents

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From September 2017 some working parents will be entitled to an extra 15 hours early education or childcare for their 3 and 4 year old child. If eligible you can have 30 hours instead of the usual 15 hours over 38 weeks per year. This can be stretched over more than 38 weeks. Eligibility starts the term after your child's third birthday as with the universal entitlement.

## 1. Am I eligible? Families will be eligible where:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and each parent earns less than £100,000 per year.
- Parents' earnings must reflect the equivalent value of at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, which is £107 a week at the current NMW rate. This includes those parents on zero-hour contracts who meet the criteria.
- The minimum amount will always be judged against the lowest hourly rate that a person of the parent's age could legally be paid as minimum wage rates vary by age.
- Working will include the employed and self-employed and those on zero-hour contracts, and also those away from work due to statutory sick pay, maternity, paternity or adoption leave and where one parent is working and the other is in receipt of benefits due to caring responsibility or disability.

## 2. How can I sign up for this?

Visit a childcare provider/s that you would like to use and they will help you fill in an application and provide evidence. There will soon be an online application for parents to check eligibility for September 2017. To find childcare in your area or more information visit:

[www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk](http://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk)

## 3. How can I use my extended hours?

- You can use your 30 hours over 38 weeks of the year or stretched over more weeks i.e. 22.8 hours over 50 weeks of the year, though some providers will have fixed session times.
- You may be able to use your hours from 6am or until 8pm and at the weekend - for instance childminders can sometimes provide earlier or later hours than a day nursery or playgroup.
- You can use up to 3 different providers for instance a school playgroup a childminder and a day nursery (see examples). But you need to let each provider know you are using other provision.
- Any additional hours used will be paid for by you at the rate for this provider - which will vary.

**[www.newcastle.gov.uk/free-childcare](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/free-childcare)**