**Nursery 2025 – 2026**

Are you eligible for the 30 Hours Entitlement?

**Some 3 and 4 year olds are eligible for an extra 15 hours free childcare, please see criteria below:**

The additional 15 hours will be available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent has a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage. Parents do not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week, but rather their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours a week. Neither parent must have an individual income of more that £100,000 per year. Working will include employed and self-employed persons. This includes those parents on zero contract hours who meet the criteria.

Families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for these additional hours. However, the government intends to make provision to support families where one parent is in receipt of benefits relating to caring responsibilities or a disability and the other parent is working. Full details will be set out in regulations, but the government intends that the additional entitlement should be available in the following circumstances:

• both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity leave;

• both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on adoption leave;

• both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay;

• one parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring; or

• one parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

Follow the link for more information about the Early Years 30 Hours entitlement: <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

**How to apply for the Early Years 30 Hour Entitlement**

Parents wishing to apply for 30 hours free childcare entitlement for a child who is 3 years of age or above from 31st August 2024 make an application via the Childcare Services website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If your application is successful, you will be given a 30 hours eligibility code which we will need to be validated with the Department for Education. Prior to verifying the eligibility code we need to obtain your written consent for the check to be completed. More information to follow.

If you qualify for the Early Years 30 Hour entitlement, this allowance equates to 15 hours in Nursery and 15 hours additional provision.



