



Could you be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare?

ELIGIBILITY

You will be eligible for the 30-hour funded childcare offer if:

- **You will need to earn the equivalent of 16 hours per week at national minimum wage for your age.**

Age	Minimum earnings each week
Under 18	£76
18-20	£109
21-22	£146
23 and over	£152

There is no requirement to work a certain amount of hours per week – it is all about how much you earn. Apprentices are also eligible as long as they earn the equivalent to 16 hours at the apprentice minimum wage.

AND

- **You earn less than £100,000 per year.**

This applies if you are self-employed or on a zero-hours contract and expect to meet the earning criteria on average over the three months after you have applied for the 30-hours. HMRC will look at data such as your previous earnings to consider whether you are likely to meet the criteria and may contact you for further information if they are unsure.

If you are not working but you expect to take up paid work within 14 days, you can still apply for 30 hours, as long as you expect to meet the income criteria over the coming three months.

If you are a single parent and meet the above criteria, you will be eligible for the 30 hours. If you live with a partner, you both must meet the above criteria. This still applies if one of you is not the child's parent – for example, if you have remarried or have started living with a new partner. If you are separated/divorced from your child's parent, the eligibility rules will only apply to the parent that the child normally lives with (and their new partner if they are part of the same household).

Exceptions

You will not have to meet the minimum earnings criteria if:

You and your partner are employed but one or both of you is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity, adoption leave, or on statutory sick pay

You are employed but your partner either has substantial caring responsibilities, or is disabled or incapacitated, or vice versa (i.e. your partner is employed but you have caring responsibilities or are disabled or incapacitated). This is dependent on you or your partner being entitled to specific disability or caring benefits.

SIGNING UP FOR THE 30-HOURS

You will be able to apply for both the 30-hour offer and tax-free childcare using a single application available online via the [Childcare Choices website](#) .

To complete the application, you will need to provide the following details:

- Name
- Address
- National Insurance number
- Information regarding your income over the next three months
- Whether you are in receipt of any benefits.

If you live with a partner, you will need to provide the same information for them as well. This will enable HMRC to decide whether your child is eligible for the 30 hours (as well as tax-free childcare).

If you are eligible, you will be given an 11-digit code that you will need to take to your childcare provider along with your national insurance number and your child's birth certificate.

If you give false information about your eligibility, you could be fined up to £3000.

It is your responsibility to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months.

You will receive a reminder text message or email from the Government when this is due.

The school will not be held liable if you fail to reconfirm in time and you will be charged for any sessions which are not funded.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 30-HOURS OFFER

Q: How soon can I access the 30-hours?

A: Your child will be eligible for the 30 hours offer from the term after they turn three, or the term after you receive your eligibility code – whichever is later. ***You can apply from when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old.***

When your child turns 3	When they can get 30 hours from	Recommended time to apply
1 st September – 31 st December	Term starting on or after 1 st January	15 th October - 30 th November
1 st January – 31 st March	Term starting on or after 1 st April	15 th January – 28 th February
1 st April – 31 st August	Term starting on or after 1 st September	15 th June – 31 st July

For example: If your child turns 3 on the 23rd August you should apply between 15th June and 31st July. The funding will then commence when your child starts their setting in September. If your child turns 3 on 23rd August and you don't apply until 1st September, the funding will not commence until the start of the Spring term in January.

Q: If I'm not eligible for the 30-hour offer, can I still get my 15 hours?

A: Yes. The 15-hour offer is still universal so if you're not eligible for a 30-hour place you will still be eligible for the 15-hour offer. All you need to do is complete an application form for the setting you would like your child to attend. The setting will then apply for the 15 hours funding.

Q: What happens if I become ineligible for the offer e.g. because I lose my job?

A: If you no longer meet the eligibility criteria, your child's 30-hour place will continue to be funded for a 'grace period'. It is extremely important that you discuss this with us straight away as we will be able confirm if and when you will lose your eligibility.

Once the grace period has expired, you will still be eligible for the 15-hour funded childcare offer. If you have been taking up the 30 hours at two providers, you can decide which provider you want to continue taking up your 15 hour places from. You may continue to pay for the additional 15 hours if you want your child to carry on with the current sessions. Any sessions taken after the grace period has finished will be invoiced half-termly.

Q: Is there any difference in how the first 15 hours and the second 15 hours under the 30-hour offer will be delivered?

A: No, there is no difference. Childcare providers will provide early years care and education that follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework across the whole 30 hours.

ACCESSING 30-HOURS PLACES: THINGS TO KNOW

- Early years providers don't have to offer the 30-hours.
- Like the 15-hour offer, the 30-hour scheme is optional for providers. This means that your childcare provider may decide not to offer funded places. Alternatively, they may limit the number of 30-hours places they offer.
- You don't have to take up the full 30-hours to receive funding. If you want to take up, for example, 25 hours per week, this will still be funded by the government under the 30-hour offer.
- You can split your funded entitlement between more than one provider, though no more than two sites in one day.
- If you are splitting your offer between providers, you will need to provide your eligibility code and information to each provider.
- 30-hour funding only covers 38 weeks of the year.
- Providers can charge non-compulsory additional charges.
- Government funding is meant to cover the delivery of early education and care only. This means that childcare providers are allowed to charge for additional goods, services and activities, such as lunch or trips, as long as these charges are voluntary. For example, your provider might give you the choice of paying for lunch or providing lunch yourself, though it is important to note that this is not possible at all childcare settings (for example, some may not have food storage facilities).

More information is available at the government's [Childcare Choices website](#).