

30 Hours Free Childcare Factsheet

Free Early Education 3 and 4 year olds

All 3 and 4 year olds are eligible for 15 hours free early learning in the school term after their third birthday.

- if their birthday is before 1 September, they can start in the autumn term
- if their birthday is before 1 January, they can start in the spring term
- if their birthday is before 1 April, can start in the summer term

From September 2017, some 3 and 4 year olds will be entitled to 30 hours per week of free childcare, under a new government scheme. The extended entitlement is intended to support working parents with the cost of childcare and enable them, where they wish, to return to work or to work additional hours.

Who is eligible for 30 hours free childcare?

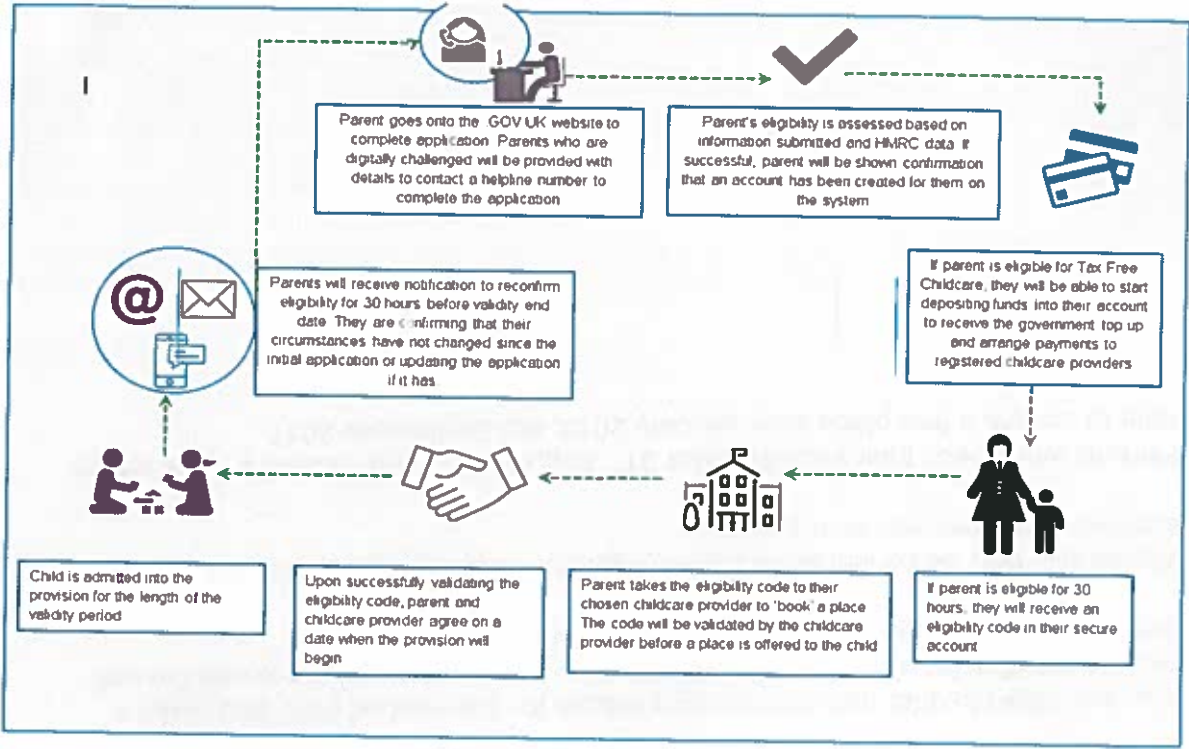
- Both parents are working (employed or self-employed including zero hours contracts) or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family; and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at the national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW); and each parent individually earns less than £100,000 per year
- 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.

How parents check their eligibility?

Parents can check their eligibility by going to <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/>. The online checker is not available to all parents yet. Parents can sign up for email updates about when they can apply: www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcare-schemes-interest/welcome

HMRC will have a dedicated helpdesk where parents who are unable to complete the application online can call and go through the application with a HMRC representative.

Parents will receive reminders from HMRC every three months to re-confirm their eligibility.



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