

30 hour Free Childcare

Is your child eligible for a 30 hour place from January 2019 and not accessing a place already? If so apply before 31 December 2018 in order to get your code for next term. Are you getting a 30 hour place already? Don't forget to log on to your childcare account to reconfirm your code or you will lose your place.



Apply for childcare

If you're a working parent, you can apply now for two new government childcare schemes Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare.

You have until **31 December** to apply and get your code if you want your child to access a place from 1 January 2019 however we strongly advise you to apply for your code NOW in order to get your code in time for next term. Codes must be dated the 31 December 2018 or before for a 1 January 2019 start. You need to set up your childcare service account through www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to apply.

You can apply through the new digital childcare service if you have a child under 4 on 31 December 2018 for 30 hours childcare or 0 to 11 years for tax free childcare or under 17 if your child has a disability.

To apply visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

If you have any questions re the code you have received from HMRC or any other questions about correspondence from HMRC please give call HMRC on 0300 1234 097.

If eligible for Tax-Free Childcare you'll receive a government top-up of £2 for every £8 that you pay into your Tax-Free Childcare account.

More information on the government's childcare schemes is available from www.childcarechoices.gov.uk which also includes a childcare calculator to find out how much you could receive. Our frequently asked questions section will also answer any questions you may have.

Will I qualify for 30 hours free childcare?

Parents of three and four year olds will need to meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours free childcare:

- They earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months.
- This equates to £120 a week (or c.£6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week (or c.£5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old and £56 a week for apprentices in their first year.
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If one or both parents is a non-EEA national, the parent applying must have recourse to public funds

A parent will not meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000
- If one or both parents is a non-EEA national and the parent applying does not have recourse to public funds

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

- They will receive a 'grace period' – this means they will be able to keep their childcare for a short period.
- Once the 'grace period' has lapsed, the parent should be entitled to the universal 15-hour entitlement.