

Information about the free 30 hour entitlement

The new entitlement is an extension of the current universal entitlement and provides an additional 15 hours of free childcare for children that are eligible.

To be eligible, you (and your partner if you have one), must either:

- each expect to earn at least £115 a week or work more than 16 hours at the National Living Wage (unless you became self-employed less than 12 months ago), or each expect to earn at least £111 a week or work more than 16 hours at the National Minimum Wage (unless you became self-employed less than 12 months ago) or
- each expect to earn at least £61.92 a week if you're under 18, £84.80 a week if you're aged 18-20 or £52.80 a week if you're an apprentice (either under 19 or in the first year of your apprenticeship).

To be eligible you (and your partner if you have one) must also both:

- live in England
- expect to have income of less than £100,000 each a year

If you (and your partner if you have one) are unemployed, you (and your partner if you have one) must become employed within 14 days of applying. You may get different eligibility outcomes for each of your children if you apply for 30 hours free childcare for more than one child.

You're not eligible if:

- you are in receipt of a childcare grant
- you are a full-time student/an intern
- you are not entitled to receive public funds

Circumstances where you may still be eligible:

You can use 30 hours free childcare if you're already getting Universal Credit or tax credits, and you can still apply for 30 hours free childcare if you or your partner (if you have one):

- are taking paid time off work, such as maternity leave, paternity leave or sick leave
- are temporarily away from England for a period of up to 6 months, such as if you're in the military (on duty)

You can also still apply for 30 hours free childcare if either you (or your partner if you have one) are employed or self-employed and one of you gets one or more of the following benefits:

- Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit or long-term Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- National Insurance credits because of incapacity or limited capability for work
- you've been assessed as having limited capability for work for Universal Credit purposes

Reconfirming your eligibility

Every three months, you'll need to reconfirm that you're still eligible for 30 hours free childcare. You'll be reminded to reconfirm you're still eligible 4 weeks before the deadline. If you also receive Tax-Free Childcare, you'll be able to reconfirm your eligibility for both schemes at the same time. You don't need to take your code to your provider or local authority every time you reconfirm however, you should notify your provider if you fall out of eligibility.

You can apply for 30 hours free childcare for another child at any time. The point at which you'll need to reconfirm will be aligned for all children. This means that you won't need to go online to reconfirm at different points in the month for each child. If you don't reconfirm, your childcare provider and local authority will be told that you no longer meet the requirements for a free childcare place.

If you become ineligible you may still be able to access your free childcare place for a short period, known as a 'start up period'. You can check what your start up period arrangements are with your childcare provider or local authority. If you're no longer eligible, you can still access the 15 hour universal early education entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds