

## How can I use the additional hours?

Patterns of childcare can vary from provider to provider. Please talk to your childcare provider about what they can offer you. Entitlement to a free place does not guarantee a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of provision.

- no session to be longer than 10 hours
- no minimum session length (subject to the requirements of registration on the Ofsted Early Years Register)
- not before 6am or after 8pm
- a maximum of two sites in a single day
- term time only or spread across the year



## Extended Entitlement

Do you...

- have a child who is 3 or 4 years old?
- earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at National Minimum or Living wage?

## Introduction

The Government has committed to doubling the amount of free childcare from 15 to 30 hours a week for working parents of three and four year olds from September 2017. The Government wants the 30 hours extended entitlement to have a real impact on the lives of families, supporting parents who wish to work, or to work more hours, to be able to do so.

The new entitlement is for 1,140 hours of early years education for children whose parents are working. This could be offered term-time only or stretched across the year.

Patterns of delivery can vary from provider to provider. Entitlement to a free place does not offer a guarantee of a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of provision.

All three and four year olds are already entitled to 15 hours a week of free childcare and this will continue.

## Am I eligible?

In order to take advantage of the extended entitlement, the eligibility criteria is as follows;

- Parent of a child who is 3 or 4 years old
- Both parents are working (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 national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and less than £100,000 per year.
- Working will include employed and self-employed persons

There are some exceptions from two parent rules and children will also be entitled if:

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

## How can I find out if I am eligible?

You can check your eligibility by visiting [www.reading.gov.uk/earlyyearsfunding](http://www.reading.gov.uk/earlyyearsfunding) or telephone the Family Information Service on 0118 9373 777, option 2 or email [fis@reading.gov.uk](mailto:fis@reading.gov.uk) to find out more information.



The Government is also introducing a scheme called Tax-Free Childcare. Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare are new Government schemes to help parents with the cost of childcare. Both schemes can be applied for through a single online application.

Parents can use Tax-Free Childcare alongside the 15 and 30 hours free childcare schemes in England.

Parents can't use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as they receive childcare vouchers, Universal Credit or tax credits. However, 30 hours free childcare can be received alongside these schemes.

