

Parent Information on Free Entitlement Government Funding

If you eligible for 15 or 30 free hours childcare, this will start from the beginning of the term following their second or third Birthday or following a child being 9 months of age.

15 hours funding (universal hours)

Every 3 and 4 year old child is entitled to 15 hours free childcare/education. This is not dependent on the parents' income status. The nursery will claim this on your behalf.

Two year old children may be eligible for 15 hours free childcare/education. The parent will need to apply directly to the local authority if they meet the criteria, for example claiming universal credit, having special education needs or disability or involvement with children's social care services.

30 hours funding (15 universal hours and 15 hours extended entitlement)

Eligible working families are able to access 30 hours of funded childcare for their 2 year old and 3 or 4 year old child. You may also have heard the extended entitlement being referred to as the additional 15 hours, or 30 hours.

Eligibility criteria:

A child is entitled to free early years provision from the term following their second or third birthday and after 9 months up to compulsory school age, where the child's parent(s) meets the eligibility criteria:

- the parent of the child (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work;
- the parent of the child (and their partner where applicable) should also be in qualifying paid work. Each parent or the single parent in a lone parent household will need to expect to earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or their national minimum wage rate per week;
- where one or both parents are in receipt of benefits in connection with sickness or parenting, they are treated as though they are in paid work;
- where one parent (in a couple household) is in receipt or could be entitled to be in receipt of specific benefits related to caring, incapacity for work or limited capability for work that they are treated as though they are in paid 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 in order to qualify for the extended entitlement;
- the parent of the child (and their partner where applicable) must not have an income exceeding £100,000 (each).

Term time

The 15 or 30 hours free entitlement only runs over 38 weeks a year, and is applicable during the term time only. We do not offer a stretched offer over 52 weeks a year.

How to apply

For the extended entitlement (30 hours funding), you will need to apply for the extended 15 hours entitlement. You can do this on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>.

Once your application has been approved, you will get a code for 30 hours free childcare to give to the nursery. Please either email or write this code down and give it to us. Thank you. We can then process your code on the Redbridge portal. You must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts.

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits, childcare vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare.

You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months. If you apply more than 3 months before the term starts, you will need to reconfirm your eligibility in your account in order to keep your code valid.

You will be asked to provide proof of your child's Date of Birth and there will be a Parent Declaration form for you to fill out and return to the nursery. This is for both 15hours and 30 hours funding entitlements.

Meals

The early years entitlement does not include meals or consumables, and these will be charged separately. Your invoice will reflect this. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries regarding the fees, funding application or invoices.