

## How to apply for your 30 hours free childcare

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England already get 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of free early education. If their parents are living and working in England, 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare. An extra 570 hours of free childcare a year, so 1140 hours in total.

30 hours free childcare has been available since September 2017.

The eligibility criteria are the same as the ones for Tax-Free Childcare, except you can continue to get these types of support at the same time as 30 hours free childcare:

- tax credits
- Universal Credit
- childcare vouchers or salary sacrifice schemes
- childcare grants and bursaries

When you apply, you'll be confirming that you need childcare so that you and your partner, if you have one, can work. If your child's already in a full-time reception class in a state funded school, you won't be eligible for 30 hours free childcare.

Go to <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>

Children will become eligible in the first term after their 3rd birthday. Their parents must meet the following 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 will need to expect to earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or their national minimum wage rate over the forthcoming quarter
- 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' (such as being 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
- If either or both parents' income exceeds £100,000 they will not be eligible for the extended entitlement



**Inspiration & Success**

