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30 hours free childcare

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New entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds from September 2017

The free entitlement for 3 and 4-year-old children has changed. There are additional funded hours for working parents.

All families with a 3 and 4-year-old child are still entitled to the universal offer of free early education of up to 570 hours taken throughout the year.

For example:

- Up to 15 hours per week if taken over 38 weeks (term time)
- 11 hours per week if taken throughout the year

The entitlement for working parents is 1,140 hours per year, such as:

- Up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week over 38 weeks term time
- Up to 22 hours if taken throughout the year

Entitlement

Eligibility criteria apply - Not all 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to the additional 15 hours.

In general, families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) **are not** be eligible for these additional hours.

To be eligible both parents need to be working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year.

There are some exceptions to this; so you may be eligible if:

- Both parents are employed but one or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity leave
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on adoption leave
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents are 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
- Or if you are a single parent and any of the above exceptions apply.

How to apply

You can apply for both the tax-free childcare and the 30-hour entitlement at the same time. [Visit Childcare Choices website](#) for more information

After application

- If you are eligible for the additional funded hours, you will receive an 11 digit reference number, which you should take to your childcare provider.

- Your childcare provider will also require the National Insurance Number of the parent who made the application - and the child's name and date of birth
- Blackpool Council will verify the reference number and confirm with your childcare provider the period that they can fund 30 hours of childcare for.
- Once you take up your 30 hours place, if your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible for the additional 15 hours, there is a grace period. This is intended to enable children to keep their place for a time, in the case of short-term changes. Blackpool Council will provide your childcare provider with the end date of this period.
- Parents must confirm their status with HMRC every 3 months in order to continue receiving the additional hours

Information is available if you have not yet chosen your childcare provider or are looking for additional childcare.

Useful links

- [Childcare Choices](#)
- [A Guide for Parents - top things you should know](#)
- [30 Hours free entitlement leaflet](#)

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