

Charging:

Childcare providers can charge for anything additional to the free entitlement i.e. meals, where parents are unable or unwilling to pay for meals and consumables, providers who choose to offer the free entitlements are responsible for setting their own policy on how to respond, with options including waiving or reducing the cost of meals and snacks, or allowing parents to supply their own meals.

Childcare providers can not set a registration fee as a condition of taking up a free place. If providers charge parents a deposit to secure their child's free place, the deposit should be refunded in full to parents within a reasonable time scale.

Inclusion:

Can you access the Early Years Pupil Premium and/or the Disability Access Fund? Local authorities must ensure they meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and take account of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice when securing free places. Speak to your childcare provider for more information.

Tax-Free Childcare:

From April 2017 the roll out of Tax Free Childcare will begin. Parents of children up to the age of 12 will be able to claim up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 if the child is disabled, towards childcare costs. Parents will be able to pay money electronically into their childcare account which can be used to pay for registered childcare. Money can also be taken out of the account. The childcare provider used will have to be signed up with the HMRC.

To access a childcare funding calculator, please go to this link:
childcarechoices.gov.uk

For further information on free childcare funding,
contact Liverpool Family Information Service
0800 085 2022 lcis@liverpool.gov.uk

Access our Early Help Directory at:

ehd.liverpool.gov.uk



Liverpool
City Council

Free 30 hour funding for 3 and 4 year olds



From September 2017, there will be an extended entitlement for working parents of three and four year olds, an additional 15 hours a week (on top of the universal entitlement of 15 hours a week for all three and four year olds). If parents are eligible they will receive up to 1140 hours of free childcare a year.

Online Childcare Service - Eligibility Checker

Eligibility for the additional free hours will be determined by HMRC and you will be required to go through the Government's online Childcare Service Eligibility Checker.

childcarechoices.gov.uk

If eligible you will receive a code which you can take to your chosen childcare provider they will then validate the code with the Local Authority using the Electronic Checking Service (ECS). A place must be validated before your child can take up the additional free hours. This code is valid for 3 months after this period you will need to recheck eligibility and this will determine if funding continues. If you disagree with eligibility outcome there is a review and appeals process managed by the HMRC.

Eligibility:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family).
- Either or both parents' income does not exceed 100k.
- The parent earns or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months. This equates to £115 a week (or c. £6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £111.20 a week (or c. £5,700 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old.
- This applies whether the parent is in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hour's contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to 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.
- If a non-EEA national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

Who will not qualify?

A parent will not meet the criteria when:

- Either or both parent has an income of more than £100,000
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds)
- You cannot claim the 30 hours in addition to a full time reception place in a maintained school or academy.

Funding periods:

You can start claiming the additional hours the term following the date on which you receive your eligibility code. You should apply for the extended entitlement the term before you wish to claim a place.

Example 1: Child is two years old, but will be three before next term

The parent's code was issued on 7th February and the child's birthday is on 11th March. The child can claim their place from 1st April.

- Children born in the period 1st January to 31st March: the start of term beginning on or following 1st April after the child's third birthday;
- Children born in the period 1st April to 31st August: the start of term beginning on or following 1st September after the child's third birthday;
- Children born in the period 1st September to 31st December: the start of term beginning on or following 1st January after the child's third birthday.

The Grace Period:

If you drop out of eligibility you will have a 'grace period' where you will continue to receive funding. If you cease to meet the eligibility criteria and the "grace period" has expired then you can continue to take up the universal entitlement of 15 free hours. If you have been taking up the extended entitlement at more than one provider, you can continue to access funded 15 hours at the provider of your choice.

Flexibility:

You can access the free place in patterns of hours that "stretch" your child's entitlement by taking fewer hours a week over more weeks of the year (38-52 weeks of the year) outside maintained school term times and at weekends if you require.

You can take your free entitlement between 6am and 8pm and it can be delivered over two sites. The maximum length of time the entitlement can be taken is up to 10 hours per day.

