



Frequently Asked Questions

When will the 30 hours free entitlement go live?

30 hours offer will be available in Haringey and every area of England from September 2017.

The eligibility checker, where parents/carers can check their eligibility and receive their child's 30 hours eligibility code, went live on 28 April.

Who can offer 30 hours?

Day-nurseries, childminders and playgroups that are registered on the Early Years Register, and childminders registered with an Ofsted-registered

Childminder Agency can deliver the 30 hours entitlement in full, or work in partnership with other providers to deliver part of it.

Schools can also offer 30 hours.

Parents will be able to split their entitlement across more than one provider.

Is it childcare or early education?

All funded provision must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

There is no difference in the education and care standards which must be met for both the universal 15 hour and extended 30 hour entitlements.

Do parents have to take up the full 30 hours?

No, parents eligible for the 30 hours can take up any amount of childcare up to a maximum of 30 hours.

How will providers know if a child is eligible for 30hours free entitlement?

Parents can check their eligibility via [Childcare Choice \(external link\)](#) or the [Childcare Calculator \(external link\)](#)

If found to be eligible, they can apply online and will be given a 30hours eligibility code. They must give this code to their provider, along with their national insurance number and child's date of birth and written consent, so that the provider can validate the 30hours eligibility code.



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As a provider what should I do when a parent comes in with their 30hrs eligibility code?

In Haringey, during the interim period of April to July 2017, providers must complete the 30hours validation excel sheet and email it to 30hrsvalidation@haringey.gov.uk to get the code validated. Once a code has been successfully verified, the provider can then confirm the place with the parent.

By September 2017, Haringey's Provider Portal will enable providers to validate the code themselves. Training and guidance for providers will be made available closer to the time.

How long will it take Haringey Council to validate a 30hrs eligibility code?

Codes will be validated twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday.

Providers must submit requests for validation by midday and should receive confirmation latest by close of play on Wednesday or Friday.

What should providers do when a parent is not eligible for 30hrs?

Providers should:

- Direct parents to Childcare Choices and the Childcare Calculator to learn more about which offers might be best for them
- Use the [DfE 30hours Eligibility Guide\(external link\)](#) to help parents understand if they're eligible
- Inform parents that their child would still be eligible for the free 15 hours per week

The DfE's 30 hours Eligibility Guide can help parents understand if they are eligible.

Please encourage parents not to leave it too late to apply. If the parent has a child who will be three before the next term but forgets to apply, they will have to wait until the following term to claim their place.

What should providers do if a parent needs assistance to apply for 30hrs (no access to internet)?

Providers must advise parents to call the Childcare Service Customer Interaction Centre on **0300 123 4097** and apply over the phone.



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Providers must also inform parents who complete their original application over the phone will also need to phone the Customer Interaction Centre to reconfirm their eligibility after three months.

What should providers do when they do not have any vacancies?

Providers should signpost parents to another setting. A list of all settings offering 30hrs will be sent to all providers and is available on the Haringey Council website.

What is Tax-Free Childcare?

Working parents of children aged under 12 can use Tax-Free Childcare, through the childcare service account, to pay for registered childcare.

The government will top-up the money that parents pay into the account. For every £8 parents pay in, the government will add an extra £2, to a maximum of £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 if disabled.

The eligibility criteria for Tax-Free Childcare are broadly aligned with 30 hours free childcare.

How can providers receive Tax-Free Childcare Payments?

To receive Tax-Free Childcare payments, childcare providers need to sign-up online. Providers will require their Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) to complete registration.

All providers registered with a regulator (e.g. Ofsted) will have received an invitation to apply, and reminder letters.

Providers who need assistance with the sign-up process should contact the Childcare Service Customer Interaction Centre on **0300 123 4097**.

What should providers do if parents do not want to use Tax-Free Childcare?

Reassure parents who don't want to use Tax-Free Childcare that they should still apply via the digital childcare service (they can choose to apply for the extended entitlement only).

If they are receiving financial support through tax credits and only want to take up 30 hours, they can choose not to apply for Tax-Free Childcare (and keep their tax credits) as part of the application.



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How many weeks of the year is 30 hours available for?

Working families are entitled to 30 hours in each of the 38 weeks of the academic year. Parents can choose to stretch this offer over up to 52 weeks of the year where this meets their childcare needs, for instance 22 hours a week for 52 weeks, or just under 24 hours for 48 weeks.

Will the other free entitlement offers (Free for 2s and 15 hours) continue?

All three and four year olds, and the most disadvantaged two-year olds, continue to be entitled to 15 hours early education a week.

Do I have to offer 30 hours?

No, it is a provider's choice whether they deliver the 30 hours entitlement or not. They can choose to offer some or all of the hours.

Parents are free to shop around to find appropriate funded provision.

I am a sessional provider, how can I deliver 30 hours?

We encourage providers to work in partnership to offer 30 hours.

For example, sessional providers who cannot offer 30 hours a week can work with childminders to offer wraparound care which meets the needs of working parents eligible for 30 hours.

Can providers charge for meals?

Providers are able to charge parents for meals, nappies and discretionary items such as trips and additional teaching such as learning a musical instrument. However, these charges are voluntary and at the discretion of the parent and therefore cannot be a condition of accessing any free entitlement place.

Providers should deliver the free entitlements consistently to all children accessing any of the free entitlements, regardless of whether they opt to pay for optional hours, services, meals or consumables.



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How much funding will providers be paid?

The EYSFF now include a new universal base rate introduced from April 2017 and applies to the 15 hour and 30 hour early education offer.

The universal base rate will be applicable to all providers of the free early education offer for three and four year olds at an hourly rate of **£4.88 per hour** per child.

In addition to this base rate, providers may attract a deprivation supplement, which will be reflected in the total hourly rate received and is dependent on the individual circumstances of children attending their settings.

Will providers be paid more to meet the needs of children with SEND?

Additional financial support is available for providers to support access for children with special educational needs. SEN Inclusion Fund can be allocated and in addition, the new Disability Access Fund (DAF) will pay a fixed amount of £615 per child directly to providers to support access into early years for eligible children. Parents will need to apply for this allowance.

Providers will be able to use the parent declaration form template, due to be published alongside the Model Agreement to identify eligible children. Haringey Council will then check that the DAF eligibility requirements have been met before releasing any funds.

Children with an identified special educational need (EHP) will receive additional funding.