

30 Hour Free Childcare Entitlement FAQ's for parents/carers in Hammersmith and Fulham

Q1. What is the 30-hour free childcare entitlement?

A Currently all 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to up to 15 hours of free childcare and early education a week for up to 38 weeks a year. Children access this entitlement in school, Nursery classes, private Day Nurseries, Pre-schools and with Childminders. The Government is increasing the free hours from 15 to 30 a week from September 2017 for eligible working parents

Q2. Will I be eligible?

A This will only be made available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and less than £100,000 per year.

Therefore, to be eligible you must meet the following criteria:

- Your child will be aged 3 or 4 when the scheme starts in September 2017
- You will work more than 16 hours per week
- You will have an annual income of less than £100,000
- You will live in England

Q3. When will my child become eligible for the funding?

A Your child will become eligible for the funding at the start of the school term after their third birthday.

Children born in the period	Become eligible for funding at the start of term beginning or following	School term
1 January - 31 March	1 April	Summer
1 April - 31 August	1 September	Autumn
1 September - 31 December	1 January	Spring

Q4. How do I check my eligibility and get a code?

A Eligibility will be checked by HMRC via a website and will be based on actual income earned.

Q5. Where can I take up my free entitlement?

A The offer can be delivered by a range of providers which include:

- Childminders
- Nurseries
- Nursery classes in schools and academies
- Nursery based in a Children's Centre
- Private day nurseries, Playgroups and Pre-schools

We will very shortly be publishing a list of providers in the borough who will be offering the 30 hour entitlement.

Q6. Will I have to pay for anything?

A Your child's entitlement is FREE, providers cannot charge for the free entitlement or any top up fees, for example registration fees or uniform. However, providers can offer additional services which could be subject to charges, but they **must** make

parents fully aware of any additional charges that apply prior to them taking up their free place.

Parents/carers should be clearly billed so that they can clearly understand:

- Free entitlement
- Any additional hours or charges for services

Parents/carers should be offered a choice of providing a packed lunch where the provider charges for lunch. A place must not be offered on the grounds that you have to pay for additional hours or services.

Q7 Can I take my child's entitlement during school holidays?

A Yes, some providers will offer a 'stretched entitlement' which allows you to use less hours a week over a longer period of time. In addition, you may use two different providers each day to meet the needs of you and your child.

Q8 If I have just moved to England and my child is not a British Citizen, will my child be eligible for 30 hour entitlement?

A Children moving to England from another country can access a place on the same basis as any other child in the Local Authority area, providing they meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

Q9 Special Educational Needs - is my child still eligible?

A Providers have a responsibility to ensure all children have full access to the EYFS. They must offer support for children accessing their provision with a disability or identified special educational need. To ensure the needs of your child are fully met, we encourage you to discuss your child's needs or any initial concerns with your provider.

There will be additional funding available to support SEN children to have full access to the EYFS. The new Disability Access Fund is equivalent to £615 per child per year to support access to free entitlements.

3 and 4 year olds will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- The child is in receipt of child disability living allowance and
- The child receives free early education

Early years providers are responsible for identifying eligible children.