



GMB Factsheet: Extended Childcare Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds

In September 2017 the Government is doubling working parents' entitlement to free childcare

What is the new entitlement?

- All 3 & 4 year olds are currently entitled to 15 hours per week, or 570 hours a year;
- From September next year this will double to 30 hours per week, or 1140 hours a year.

Why are they offering this?

- The aim is to be 'responsive' to parents' working patterns; to encourage them to increase their working hours by offering more flexible childcare options and reducing the cost of childcare.

What is the eligibility criteria?

- Both parents, or single parents, must be working, which includes employed, self-employed and zero hour contract workers as long as they meet the criteria;
- The minimum earning requirement must be on average equivalent to 16 hours a week at national minimum wage for under 25 year olds, or national living wage

for over 25 year olds;

- Both parents, or single parents, should be earning less than £100,000 per year.

Are there exceptions to this?

- Certain circumstances are accepted, for example: if one or both parents are temporarily absent from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption or statutory sick leave;



- If one parent works but the other has substantial caring responsibilities, based on specific benefits received for caring;
- Or if one parent works but the other is disabled or incapacitated, based on receipt of specific benefits.

Where can I use the new entitlements?

- In any Ofsted registered childcare provider (nurseries, play-

groups, childminders, etc.);

- Parents are allowed to split their free childcare between different providers, but be aware that if you're eligible for the extended entitlement you can only use it across a maximum of 3 providers.

And I'm able to use it across the whole year?

- Yes, meaning you can now use it to cover school holidays if you need to, but this will change the amount you're entitled to;
- If you use your childcare over 38 weeks of the year (term time only) you'll be entitled to 30 hours per week;
- Over 48 weeks of the year and you'll be entitled to 23.75 hours per week;
- And over 51 weeks of the year you'll be entitled to 22.25 hours per week.

Does my child have to already be

enrolled with the childcare provider when the additional hours begin next September?

- No, it's not necessary. The only requirements are that the providers you apply to are Ofsted registered, approved to offer Free Early Education (FEE) places and have the space.

And there are no additional fees to pay?

- Some providers charge for extras, like meals or snacks, which won't be covered by the entitlement;
- If you require more hours than those covered by the entitlement you will have to pay for the additional hours.

How do I apply?

- Nearer the time, you'll be able to check your eligibility and apply online through your local authority.