

Qualifying Criteria for 30 Hours Free Entitlement

- To qualify for the 30 hours' free childcare, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) must be in work, and expect to earn on average, at least £125.38 a week (the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage) and no more than £100,000 per year.
- Self-employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings threshold.
- Families where one parent is not in paid employment (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for the 30 Hour Free Entitlement.
- Parents who are studying or in training will not be eligible unless this is combined with paid work which meets the minimum average earnings threshold.

Checking eligibility for the 30 Hours Free Entitlement

- Parents can check eligibility with HMRC either online or by phone.
- Funding can only be accessed from the term following their eligibility e.g. if a parent checks and is eligible in September, they will not be able to take the funding up until January so **parents need to apply the term before** they want to access childcare.
- The 30-hour offer will not be an open offer; parents will need to check every 3 months.
- Please follow the instructions on: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>
- Your eligibility is assessed based on the information submitted and HMRC data. If successful, you will be shown confirmation that an account has been created for you on the system.
- If you are eligible for the 30 hours, you will receive an 11-digit eligibility code into your secure account. The code will normally be valid for 3 months.
- When you receive a provisional offer of a place from an early years setting which offers 30 hours' provision, you will be asked to provide them with your eligibility code. The code will be validated by the childcare provider before a place is offered to your child.
- Upon successfully validating the eligibility code, the parent and childcare provider will agree on a date when the provision will begin.
- Your child can be admitted into the provision for the length of the validity period.
- You will then receive notification to reconfirm your eligibility for 30 hours before the validity end date. You will be asked to confirm that your circumstances have not changed since the initial application or update the application if it has.
- HMRC will remind the parent to re-confirm their eligibility as their valid period draws to a close.

Apply for Tax-Free Childcare

(<https://www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare>)

Use this service to apply for a childcare account.

You can use your account to [pay your childcare provider](#).

You'll need your details (and your partner's, if you have one), including your:

- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you're self-employed

It takes 20 minutes to apply.

You can pay your provider with money from your account once the money is shown as 'cleared funds'. Payments should show in your provider's account within 24 hours, depending on their bank.

As part of your application, you'll find out if you're eligible for Tax-Free Childcare. If you live in England, you'll also find out if you're eligible for 30 hours free childcare. You may find out straight away, but it can take up to 7 days.