

Early Years and Childcare

Stakeholders briefing sheet no. 4 (December 2018)

Deadline for 30 Hours Childcare applications

Parents wanting to apply for 30 Hours Childcare for their three and four year olds from **1 January 2019** should do so **now** using the Government's online childcare service, [Childcare Choices](#).

Once a parent has completed their online application they will be sent confirmation if they are eligible for 30 hours childcare. There may be a delay in confirmation if further information is required by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs HMRC.

New applications must be completed **before the 31 December** to ensure parents have an eligibility code to secure the extended childcare hours from January for their age eligible child.

If the parent **does not** hold an eligibility code before their child is due to start their extended hours, the parent **will not** be able to receive the extended entitlement and will be asked to pay for these hours until the following term.

Childcare
Choices

What's new for 30 Hours?



Finding Homes for Hampshire Children

[Foster carers](#) are now eligible to apply for 30 Hours Childcare funding if the following criteria are met:

For the child, accessing the extended hours is consistent with the child's care plan; and

- Where there is a single foster parent family, the foster parent is engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster parent; or
- Where there are two foster parents in the same fostering household, both are engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster parent; or
- Where there are two foster parents in the same fostering household, one engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster parent and one having carer responsibilities or being unable to work and in receipt of qualifying benefits

If one partner is not a foster parent then they must be in qualifying paid work and meet the normal income requirements for 30 hours

Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is available to self-employed parents, and all qualifying working parents regardless of their employer.

It is a savings scheme to pay for registered childcare for children under the age of 12 and those with disabilities under the age of 17.

For every 80p that the parent (or another relative, friend, etc.) puts into the savings account, the Government will top up with another 20p. This is equivalent of the tax most people pay - 20% - which gives the scheme its name, 'tax-free'.

There is a maximum of £2,000 per child, per year (or £4,000 for a child or young person with a disability).

Parents can apply online through the childcare service which can be accessed via the [Childcare Choices](#) website.

Parents **can not** get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as tax credits, employer supported childcare vouchers or Universal Credit, but it can be used with '30 Hours' childcare.



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

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Re-confirmation

Parents who have received 30 Hours or Tax-Free Childcare in this period **must** ensure that they reconfirm their eligibility to HMRC **now**.

Re-confirmation is required every 3 months (12 weeks) to ensure that the family is still eligible.

Parents will receive a reminder 4 weeks before the validity end date is due. This will either be an email or SMS text message, and a message will also appear in the parent's online childcare account.

Contact info

30 Hours Childcare/ Tax-Free Childcare helpline:
Childcare Service Helpline
0300 123 4097
tax-free.childcare@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

To help decide what scheme is best for their circumstances, parents can use the [Childcare Calculator](#).

Universal Credit



Universal Credit has been rolled out across Hampshire.

The new [welfare benefit](#) replaces six 'legacy' benefits: Child Tax Credit; Housing Benefit; Income Support; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA); income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Working Tax Credit'.

Having just one benefit makes the process for applying and receiving money streamlined and more efficient for claimants.

Universal Credit pays up to 85% of childcare costs, with a monthly limit of £646.35 for 1 child or £1108.04 for 2 or more children.

The government published their guidance for parents who are eligible for Universal Credit and need help with their [childcare costs](#).

Do you know a 2 year old?

There are free early years education places available in Hampshire for children aged two.

These places are available in registered nurseries, pre-schools or with childminders that are approved to provide early years education and have achieved an Ofsted rating of 'good' or

'outstanding'. Details of these providers can be found from the [Family Information and Services Hub](#).

This is an opportunity for young children to boost their development, giving them the opportunity to learn, thrive and play.



To be eligible for the free funding parents will be in receipt of welfare benefits, or the child is in care or has a special educational need or disability.

For [further details and to apply](#), parents need to complete the online application. If parents require further help they can contact Services for Young Children: childcare@hants.gov.uk or telephone 01962 847070.

Next edition to

include: Early Years Pupil Premium

If you no longer want to receive this briefing please email:
alice.warr@hants.gov.uk