



# Extended Free Childcare for working parents – ‘30 Hours’

## Introduction

From September 2017 the government is increasing the amount of free childcare for three and four year old children of working parents (including those that are self-employed), to the ‘extended entitlement’ of 1,140 hours per year. The extended free childcare entitlement and Tax-Free Childcare are government schemes to help working parents with the cost of childcare.

## Am I eligible?

You need to be:

- Parent of a child who is three or four years old
- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- Each parent (or sole parent in a lone parent family) is earning, 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.

**There are some exceptions** with two parent rules – see information online:

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/moreinfopar/2>



Hampshire  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

## How do I find out if I am eligible and how do I apply?

To check which scheme works best for you use the government's childcare calculator: <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>.

This table explains what schemes can be used together.

Can be used at the same time with . . .	15 Hours Childcare ('universal entitlement')	30 Hours Childcare ('extended entitlement')	Tax-Free Childcare	Employer supported Childcare Vouchers	Universal Credit or Tax Credits
30 Hours Childcare	✓		✓	✓	✓
Tax-Free Childcare	✓	✓			

**Check your eligibility and apply** by visiting <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/> or telephone the helpline on **0300 123 4097**.

### How can the extended entitlement be used?

- Day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs and schools that are able to deliver the extended entitlement
- Hours can be taken over 38 weeks ('standard'), or more ('stretched'), in the child's funded year
- Funded hours could be used from 6.00am – 8.00pm
- There is no minimum session length; however, the maximum session length is 10 hours each day
- Parents and childcare providers are best placed to agree the appropriate amount of time a child can spend in a provision
- Children can attend two provisions on any one day.