

## 30 hours funded places

From September 2017 working parents of eligible 3 and 4 year old children could receive an additional 15 hours of funded early education a week, on top of the current entitlement of 15 hours for all 3/ 4 year olds. Families could receive up to 30 hours of funded education over 38 weeks (or 1140 hours per year).

### **Criteria for the additional 15 hours (making 30 hours):**

Each parent (or lone parent) earns at least the minimum equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum wage or national living wage, this equates to earning at least:

- £120 per week (or £6000 a year) for each parent aged 25 years and older.
- £112.80 per week (or £5800 a year) for each parent aged 21-24 years.

Some families:

- could be eligible where one or both parents are unable to work due to maternity leave, paternity leave, statutory sick, shared parental or adoption leave
- where one parents meets the earnings criteria but the other parent is unable to work due to being disabled, having carer responsibilities or they have been assessed for having limited capacity to work.
- where one parent is in the "start up period" (newly self employed) they do not need to demonstrate they meet the income criteria for 12 months.

If you are unable to work find out full details if you can qualify through the [extended criteria](#).

Parents **will not** be eligible if:

- Either parent earns more than £100,000 a year
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds).

### **How to apply**

Parents apply online to HMRC who check and confirm eligibility:

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

### **What next?**

- Parents successful in their application will then be sent a code by HMRC to their new Gateway Account. This code must be passed onto the childcare provider who will validate the code with the local authority.
- Discuss with your childcare provider how the funded hours can be taken with them.
- **Important:** every 3 months parents will be prompted by HMRC via text/ email to log into the Gateway Account and reconfirm details and eligibility.
- If a family falls out of the eligibility criteria, parents will be offered a "**grace period**" of funding before the additional 15 hours stop. All 3 and 4 year olds will still be able to claim a maximum of 15 hours per week of funded childcare (or (570 hours per year).

### **Contact Information:**

Family Information Service:

> Telephone: 0300 111 8007 then choose option1

> Email: [fis@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@staffordshire.gov.uk)