

30 hours childcare - Top 10 Facts and Information



Not sure what support
you could get with
childcare costs? Go to
childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare
Choices

 HM Government

FACT ONE:

A 30 hour childcare place is a funded place for up to 30 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. If you want a place across school holidays you will have less hours per week. For example taken over 51 weeks of the year you would get 22 hours a week.

FACT TWO:

Both parents must be in paid work (or the sole parent in a lone parent family) with each parent earning a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national living wage, and less than £100,000 per year.

FACT THREE:

Only the time is funded so your childcare provider can still charge for additional hours, services and consumables such as food, nappies etc. All childcare providers have a charging policy and will be happy to explain charges to you.

FACT FOUR:

The Council is not involved in the application process or outcome, this is managed through www.childcarechoice.gov.uk
If you have a problem or query call: The HMRC on 0300 123 4097



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- You should apply for the funding **in the term** of your child's 3rd birthday (see table) via www.childcarechoices.gov.uk - if you apply too early they might miss the reconfirmation date (every three months), resulting in the code expiring before your child has even taken up their 30 hour place.

FACT FIVE:

Having a 30 hour code does **not** mean your child is eligible to start their 30 hour place

If your child's third birthday falls between	Child becomes eligible for funded place
1st April - 31st August *Think about applying around mid-June Application deadline is 31 August	Autumn Term In the September after their third birthday with a valid 30 hour code issued by 31 August
1st September - 31st December *Think about applying around mid- October Application deadline is 31 December	Spring Term In the January after their third birthday with a valid 30 hour code issued by 31 December
1st January - 31st March *Think about applying around mid-January Application needed is 31 March	Summer Term In the April after their third birthday with a valid 30 hour code issued by 31 March

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FACT SIX:

A 30 hour childcare place can be taken at a maximum of 2 sites on any one day

FACT SEVEN:

Childcare Providers need to validate your 30 hour code before they can start your child in a 30 hour place

- Provide your 30 hours (11 digit) code, national insurance number and child's date of birth, to your childcare provider as soon as received.

FACT EIGHT:

Even if nothing changes in your circumstances you will stop being eligible for a 30 hour place after 3 months unless you reconfirm your details

- The 30 hour code only last 3 months and you need to **log back into your Childcare Choices (gateway) account every three months** to reconfirm your details. Put a reminder in your mobile phone/device calendar so you do not forget. If your details have not changed, you will only need to tick a box to confirm that the details are the same.



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Log in to your childcare account every **3** months to check your details are up to date. Go to [gov.uk/childcareaccount](https://www.gov.uk/childcareaccount)

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- **Validity periods (reconfirmation dates)** will typically be three months. In certain circumstances, the length may vary. If a sibling has previously had the funding, HMRC may shorten the validity period so that it aligns with the older sibling's dates.

FACT NINE:

It is **your responsibility** to check the date that you need to reconfirm and make sure that you do this before the deadline.

- All codes are assigned a grace period this is a period of time where the funding will continue even if you are not longer eligible, this is to prevent sudden changes in childcare arrangements, thus giving consistency for you, your child and your childcare provider, this is usually until the end of the next term.

FACT TEN:

Children cannot take up or transfer a place whilst in their grace period - if you are unsure what this is, please speak to your childcare provider.