

30 Hours Free Childcare- Do you qualify?

You may be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare if your circumstances are as follows:

- Both parents are earning or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months
- This equates to £120 a week (around £6,240 per year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 (around £5,800 per year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on a zero hours contract
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If a non-EEA national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

Who will not qualify?

A parent will not meet the criteria when:

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

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

- They will receive a "grace period" – this means they will be able to keep their childcare for a short period.

Once the "grace period" has lapsed, the child will be entitled to the universal 15 hour entitlement.

An online system to check eligibility is available from www.hertfordshire.gov.uk or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. If you qualify for the free childcare you will be given an 11 digit code. Please state the code on the Nursery Application Form. Thank you.