

30 hours free

childcare information for parents

- Eligibility can be checked up to 3 months before your child's third birthday at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
- Eligibility begins in the funding period following your child's third birthday.
- If you are eligible you will be issued with a voucher code. You must give your code to your childcare provider.
- The HMRC helpline number is 0300 123 4097

Free early education and childcare can be taken at:

- childminders registered with Ofsted
- day nurseries
- nursery schools
- pre-schools
- schools with nursery classes

All 3 and 4 year old children are eligible for 570 hours of free early education per year. Some eligible families can receive an additional 570 hours on top dependent on circumstances.

- You earn (or expect to earn) the equivalent of 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming 3 months.
- One or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or on statutory sick leave
- One of you meets the income criteria above and the other is unable to work because they're disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work
- You're in a 'start-up period' (i.e. newly self-employed). You don't need to demonstrate that you meet the income criteria for 12 months
- You're a non-EEA national. You must have 'recourse to public funds'.





Your child turns 3	Get your code by	You can start
1 January to 31 March	31 March	1 April onwards
1 April to 31 August	31 August	1 September onwards
1 September to 31 December	31 December	1 January onwards



All providers deliver the early years foundation stage curriculum and offer the same learning opportunities for children. All providers are inspected by Ofsted and some providers can provide flexible provision and opportunities for additional hours.

96% of all Hertfordshire providers are graded good or outstanding by Ofsted. Evidence shows that regular, high quality early education has lasting benefits for all children.

Regardless of where your child accesses their free early education they will experience a varied and stimulating range of play and early learning activities, including:

- learning by playing and exploring
- creative and critical thinking
- socialising and making friends
- having fun, in a safe and nurturing environment
- being school ready.

You can choose to take these hours at one provider or split them between providers.

You do not have to buy additional hours or additional services such as lunch or activities in order to

access free early education. You do not have to pay for any part of your child's free early education.

You can find providers offering free early education places and 30 hours free childcare in your area by contacting your local family centre or on the Hertfordshire childcare directory, www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/childcaredirectory

Contact your local free early education provider, or look on their website, for advice about:

- place availability
- when your child can start
- visits and open days
- how they allocate places
- flexible provision, part-time placements, 30 hours free childcare and additional hours.

For more information visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents

