

Eligibility Criteria - 30 hours FREE childcare

The extended free childcare entitlement will be available to parents/carers of three- and four-year-olds in from September 2017 where:

- Both parents are working (or sole parent in a lone parent family) & each parent/carer earns on average:
 - a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) (for under 25 yr olds) or national living wage (NLW) (if over 25 yrs old), and
 - less than £100,000 per year

Or

- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave or statutory sick pay, or
- One parent is employed & the other parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring, or
- One parent is employed & one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

Please note

- You do not need to work 16 hours per week, but your earnings must equal at least 16 hours work at minimum wage / national living wage. This equates to a minimum income requirement for a parent/carer over the age of 25 of £115.20 a week, or for 21-24 year olds of £107.20 a week.
- A parent/carer will be eligible if they expect (on average) to earn this amount over the coming three months:
- For example, for a parent/carer who is on a zero-hours contract, they will qualify if on average they work two weeks out of every three, and when they are working they get 25 hours of work at the minimum wage.
- 'Parent' means a person who has parental responsibility for the child. In cases where a parent has remarried or is living with a partner, the step-parent or partner must also meet the earning threshold.
- Foster carers are only eligible for the extended entitlement for their own children (if they meet the criteria); they are not eligible for children that they foster.

Register for emails about new childcare schemes in 2017:

<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcare-schemes-interest/welcome>

For more information visit:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Childcare/Early-years-education-%E2%80%93-free-entitlement.aspx>