

# Free early education and funding for 3 and 4 year olds

## 15 hours

All 3 and 4 year olds can have up to 15 hours of free childcare which starts the term after their 3rd birthday.

This is a national scheme every child in England is entitled to. Entitlement to a Free Early Education place does not offer a guarantee of a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of delivery.

Child born between	Will become eligible for free childcare
1 January and 31 March	The start of term 5 following their third birthday (after Easter holiday)
1 April and 31 August	The start of term 1 following their third birthday (after summer holiday)
1 September and 31 December	The start of term 3 following their third birthday (after Christmas/New Year holiday)

Please click [here](https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare/parents-guide-to-15-universal-hours-of-free-childcare#tab-2) <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare/parents-guide-to-15-universal-hours-of-free-childcare#tab-2> to find out more information about 15 hours of free childcare.

## 30 hours

Some children are entitled to an extra 15 hours extended funding from the term after their third birthday making a total of 30 hours funding.

A child qualifies for the extended entitlement if:

- Both parents are working and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours (National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage) and less than £100k a year.
- The sole parent in a lone parent family is working and earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours (National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage) and less than £100k a year.

To get the additional hours you will need to sign up online to get an eligibility code. You'll also need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months.

You must apply for your 30 hours eligibility code in the term before your child becomes eligible by age. The government has recommended application periods. If you do not apply within these recommended periods you may not get your code in time. If you do not apply for and receive your code before the deadline date you will not be able to take up your place until the term after.

When your child turns 3	When they can get 30 hours from	Recommended time to apply	Deadline for applying
1 September to 31 December	1 January	15 October to 30 November	31 December
1 January to 31 March	1 April	15 January to 28 February	31 March
1 April to 31 August	1 September	15 June to 31 July	31 August

To find out more information and how to apply, please click [here](https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare/parents-guide-to-30-hours-of-funded-childcare). <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare/parents-guide-to-30-hours-of-funded-childcare>