



## **30 Hours Free Childcare – Parents Information**

All three- and four-year-olds in England are currently eligible for funded early years provision for 15 hours per week (universal offer), 38 weeks of the year. In September 2017, this will increase to 30 hours per week (extended offer), for three and four-year-olds from working families.

Sydenham Road Under Fives will be offering a total of 24 hours per week. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays – 9.15am – 12.15pm and 12.15pm – 3.15pm, you can either choose a full day (6 hours) or am or pm session and Thursdays and Fridays – 9.15am – 12.15pm. Term time only.

3-2-1 Rule. Children will be able to split their provision over 3 providers, but no more than 2 in any 1 day. Parents will have to 'state' which provider is claiming universal hours and which provider is claiming the extra extended hours.

### **Eligibility**

- Parents will be able to access the 30-hour entitlement if they (each, in dual-parent families): earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national living wage – or national minimum wage for those aged under 25 earn less than £100,000 per year.
- It is important to note that the minimum threshold is based on money earned, not hours worked – so if a parent works for 10 hours per week but still earns the equivalent of 16 hours at national minimum or living wage, they will be eligible for the 30-hour offer.
- The self-employed, parents on zero-hours contracts and those on sick or parental leave are also eligible.
- The additional funded hours will also be available where one parent is employed but the other has substantial caring responsibilities or is disabled.
- In cases where parents are separated, eligibility applies to the parent with whom the child 'normally lives'.
- Where the parent of a child has a 'partner' – i.e. a person to whom they are married, have a civil partnership, or live with, the eligibility criteria also applies to that partner.

### **Determining eligibility**

- Parents will be able to apply for the 30-hour scheme (as well as the tax-free childcare scheme) through a joint online application developed by HMRC, which includes an eligibility checking system.
- Once parents successfully apply online, they will be given a unique 11 digit code which they can then present to their chosen provider(s).

- Providers can then use the eligibility checking system to check that the code is valid, and if it is, book that parent's place. If they have no places available, providers are expected to refer parents to the local authority who can look to find alternative providers.
- Parents will be expected to reconfirm their eligibility every three months.
- Any parents who provide false information about their eligibility can be fined between £300 and £3000.

## **Changing circumstances**

If a parent's circumstances change and they become eligible for the 30-hour offer, local authorities are expected to secure a funded place for their child or children "as soon as is reasonably practicable" during the term they become eligible and no later than the start of the next term.

If a parent's circumstances change and they become ineligible for the 30-hour offer, local authorities will be required to continue funding their place for a 'grace period'. This grace period will be automatically administered through the eligibility checking system.

Any child who is no longer eligible for the 30-hour offer will still be eligible for the universal 15-hour free entitlement offer. If they had previously been taking up their 30-hour place at more than one provider, their parent can either choose the provider they want to continue to take up their 15-hour place with, or continue to split their 15-hour entitlement between these providers.

### **Useful tools for Parents;**

1. [Online Childcare Calculator](#) –

**[www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcarecalculator/children/number](http://www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcarecalculator/children/number)**

(Parents can work out how much they can claim and sign up to an alert email from HMRC when the online checking service for 30 Hours and Tax Free Childcare goes live).

2. [Government Gateway ID](#) – **<http://www.gateway.gov.uk/>**

(We advise you to register and enrol to this now)