

Eligibility and How to Apply for 30 hours Free Childcare

You may be able to get up to 30 hours free childcare (1,140 hours per year, which you can choose how you take).

If you are eligible for the extra hours, you sign up online to get a code to give to your childcare provider to reserve your place. You will get the extra hours once the next term starts.

If you have already registered, you can sign in to your childcare account.

Eligibility

You can usually get 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- In work or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- Each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week.

This earnings limit doesn't apply if you are self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You are not eligible if:

- Your child doesn't usually live with you
- The child is your foster child
- Either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000.

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

If you can't work

You may still be eligible if your partner is working and you get other benefits.

To apply for 30 hours free childcare

You will need your details (and your partner's if you have one), including your:

- National Insurance Number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you are self employed.

You will get a childcare account if your application is successful. You can use it to get your code for 30 hours free childcare.

If you pay for childcare and want to use Tax-Free Childcare to get help with costs, you can also apply using this service.

It usually takes 20 minutes to apply. You may find out if you are eligible straight away but it can take up to 7 days.

Apply at:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>