

Free Entitlement Funding

What is free early education for three and four year olds?

The Department for Education offers all eligible three and four year olds 15 hours per week term time only known as 'universal funding' following the term after their third birthday. Some children may be entitled to 30 hours per week, term time only, known as 'extended funding', subject to your application and successful eligibility checks from HMRC.

You can check your eligibility for extended funding here www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

We encourage parents whose children are approaching their first funded term to apply for their extended codes as soon as possible to ensure you get your code in good time for next term. Not all parents can get a code straight away – HMRC sometimes needs more information to check whether a parent is eligible. You will need a valid code issued to you ahead of the 1st day of term.

You will also need to reconfirm eligibility for extended funding every 3 months, HMRC manage this process and the reminders to you yourselves.

When will my child become eligible for funding?

The nationally prescribed dates for determining eligibility for both the universal and extended free entitlement are as follows:

A CHILD BORN ON OR BETWEEN:	WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FREE ENTITLEMENT FUNDED FROM:
1st April and 31st August	1st September following their 3rd birthday
1st September and 31st December	1st January following their 3rd birthday
1st January and 31st March	1st April following their 3rd birthday

How will funding be applied to my child's sessions?

For parents that require wraparound sessions, AM/PM or Full Day sessions, the free entitlement hours are spread across 52 weeks for a maximum of 11 hours per week on the universal free entitlement offer and 22 hours per week for the extended free entitlement offer, dependent on sessional attendance. Each AM/PM session will include a maximum of 2hrs 45 minutes free entitlement, and a full day will include 5hrs 30 minutes.

The additional service cost relating to wraparound care is for the flexible services of drop off and collection within your permitted session times, all freshly prepared meals (breakfast, lunch, tea and snacks) dependent on session type, consumables e.g. sun cream and a place guaranteed for every term until your child reaches school age. Please contact your nursery for a copy of the relevant published wraparound fees.

Our free entitlement sessions included within wraparound care are detailed in the table below:

UNIVERSAL FREE ENTITLEMENT SESSIONS, UP TO 11 HOURS PER WEEK OVER 52 WEEKS	
Monday to Friday (AM session 10.15am – 13.00pm) (PM session 13.00pm – 15.45pm)	2hrs 45mins funding per session (max 4)
EXTENDED FREE ENTITLEMENT SESSIONS, UP TO 22 HOURS PER WEEK OVER 52 WEEKS	
Monday to Friday (AM session 10.15am – 13.00pm) (PM session 13.00pm – 15.45pm)	2hrs 45mins funding per session (max 8)

Can my child access a funded only place?

If you would like your child to attend a funded only session with no additional services this place is subject to nursery availability and could be subject to change. The nursery universal and extended free entitlement sessions are available to be taken across 52 weeks per year.

A voluntary contribution from parents to help cover the operating consumables costs provided to your child, for example, the quality, award-winning meals and snacks served in nursery or the five-star UVA sun cream provided when the weather dictates will be requested by the nursery. This contribution is voluntary and no expectation is placed on any parent to agree to and act on this request. The requested contribution is £2 per session. Our funded only sessions are detailed in the table below;

UNIVERSAL FREE ENTITLEMENT SESSIONS, UP TO 11 HOURS PER WEEK OVER 52 WEEKS	
Monday to Friday PM session 13.45pm – 16.30pm	2hrs 45mins funding per session (max 4)
EXTENDED FREE ENTITLEMENT SESSIONS, UP TO 22 HOURS PER WEEK OVER 52 WEEKS	
Monday to Friday AM session 08.45-11.30am PM session 13.45pm – 16.30pm	2hrs 45mins funding per session (max 8)