

Extended early education and childcare funding for 3 and 4 year olds - 30 Hours

Working parents may be able to claim additional hours to support with childcare costs, known as 30 hours, for 3 and 4-year-old children.

Am I eligible for the additional hours?

The additional hours can be claimed if you meet the eligibility criteria.

Your eligibility depends on:

- if you are working
- how much you earn
- your child's circumstances
- your nationality

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

If you are working

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

- in work
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

If you're on parental leave, you cannot apply for the child you're on leave for.

If you are not currently working

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance.

When should I apply for the additional hours?

You need to have applied for and received an eligible code from HMRC before the start of the funding block for your child will be eligible. This means you will need to apply **NOW**.

You will be given a start date for this code which will match the day you apply. Northamptonshire County Council are unable to fund codes that have been issued after the deadline. These codes will be eligible for the next full funding block.

*Please allow time for HMRC to process your code and for your provider to validate it. The 30-hour code application deadlines have been set by the Department for Education. We recommend that you apply at least three weeks before the deadline date, in case of any delays when receiving your code.

A valid eligibility code must have been received from HMRC prior to accessing the additional hours.

How do I apply for the additional hours?

You can apply via the **GOV.UK** site.

Do I need to re-apply?

You must confirm your details are up to date every 3 months or your code will expire and funding for your additional hours will stop.

You can do this on the **HRMC portal**.