

# Free Childcare for 3 and 4 Year Olds

## **Universal Childcare Offer**

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare a year the term after their third birthday. There is no criteria to meet, simply talk to your chosen childcare provider and get registered today. If you have any issues in finding a childcare provider who offers this free childcare, we will be happy to help you find one, our contact details are on this leaflet. Good quality childcare helps children's social, physical and cognitive development getting them ready for school.

## **The Extended Entitlement – for working families**

Additional hours of free childcare are now available for eligible families of 3 and 4 year olds, increasing the free childcare from 570 hours a year up to 1140.

To qualify for the additional hours of free childcare, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) will need to earn, the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage per week and less than £100,000 per year.



## How do I know if I am eligible for the extended entitlement?

You can check if you will be entitled to these extra free hours by registering your details online now; [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

If you do not have access to the internet you can apply on the telephone by calling **0300 123 4097**. You can find the eligibility criteria below:

Parents do not necessarily need to work 16 hours a week, but their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at national minimum wage. This includes parents on zero hour contracts who meet the criteria as well as self-employed parents.

Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity leave or adoption leave.  
Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay.

One parent is employed and the other parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.  
A family with an annual household income of £199,998 would be eligible if each parent earns just under £100,000.



**Extended Childcare Entitlement**

You can stretch the free childcare offer to suit you

- 22 hours**  
over 52 weeks a year
- 24 hours**  
over 48 weeks a year
- 30 hours**  
over 38 weeks, term time

To find out more and sign up for notifications you can visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) or call **0300 123 4097** today.  
[www.derby.gov.uk/freechildcare](http://www.derby.gov.uk/freechildcare)  
email: [fis@derby.gov.uk](mailto:fis@derby.gov.uk) tel: **01332 640758**