

# Free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds



## Increasing from 15 hours to 30 hours in September 2017

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours a week free early education in an Ofsted registered setting the term after their third birthday. This can be with a childminder, pre-school, day nursery and wrap-around or in a school nursery in the September after your child's third birthday.

From September 2017, some children will also be eligible for an additional 15 hours free early education each week. The 30 hours extended entitlement can be taken during term time or alternatively spread over the year between 6am and 8pm for up to 10 hours a day. Your childcare setting will advise you of the pattern of hours they are able to offer.

In any one day, the extended hours are limited to two sites and three childcare providers. The free hours do not include the cost of consumables like drinks, meals and nappies.

## Finding a setting

Solihull Family Information Service can help you find a setting that meets your needs.

For more information on free early education and for a register of providers in Solihull please visit us at: <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/children/childcare/earlyeducation3-4yearolds>

Alternatively, you can call us on 0800 389 8667 or email [familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk).

If you are looking for a childcare setting outside Solihull you may find the following websites useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-free-early-education>

<http://finder.familyandchildcaretrust.org/kb5/fct/childcarefinder/home.page>

See reverse to find out if you will be eligible for the 30 hours



## Criteria for the 30 hours

Parents will be eligible for the extended hours where:

- All parents (whether two-parent family or lone parent) are working and earning a minimum of the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage (includes income received from tax credits or Universal Credit) and one parent's income does not exceed £100,000
- One or both parents are on leave (parental, maternal etc.)
- One or both parents are on statutory sick pay
- Parents on zero hours contracts and those who are registered as self-employed
- One parent is employed and the other parent has either: substantial caring responsibilities and or a disability; is a foster carer with their own 3 and 4 year old children

You can visit the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website in late Spring 2017 to check your eligibility. If you are eligible, you will receive a code to take to your preferred provider. Parents who are in training will not be eligible as they can receive other government support.

**To find out more information visit:**  
**[www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo)**  
**or call: 0800 389 8667**  
**Email: [familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk)**