

30 hours free childcare

Calling all parents of under fives - 30 hours free childcare

Parents can now check if they are eligible for the Government's 30 hours free childcare for their three and four year olds by using the online childcare calculator at www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator

From September 2017 parents will be entitled to a maximum of 1140 hours of free childcare, which doubles the existing 570 hours currently available to all three and four year olds. This could save working parents up to £5000 a year.

To confirm eligibility parents will need to submit an online application via the Childcare Choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. They will receive a reference code which will need to be given to their registered childcare provider. The childcare provider will validate the code with the local authority and confirm eligibility. If authorised, parents will then be able discuss when the free hours of childcare can begin with their childcare provider.

Tax-Free Childcare

Parents can now check to see if they are eligible to receive up to 20% of financial help towards childcare costs from the Government through the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. This could help towards additional hours not covered by free entitlements; before and after school childcare and holiday childcare.

For an explanation of the eligibility criteria and for more details on all Government schemes offering childcare support, visit the Childcare Choices website at, www.childcarechoices.gov.uk