

New from September 2017 - 30 Hours Free Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

From September 2017, the Government will offer 30 hours of free childcare per week for parents of three and four year olds, to help them **continue or take up employment**. At Tow Law Millennium Primary School, we are ready to support you and your child due to our strong partnership with Heather Gwynnette and Annmarie Hurton, two local childminders. At this stage it is very important that you let us know if you are eligible so that we can plan together.

You can check whether you are eligible on the [Childcare Choices](#).

If you are eligible for 30 hours you will be given an 11 digit eligibility code. You or your partner should bring this code to us by **next Friday** (30 June) to secure your place as places are limited. You will also need to give us the National Insurance number of the person who registered online and your child's date of birth.

You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every three months but a reminder will be sent to you by HMRC by text and/or email.

Find out more about the 30 hours free childcare in the [frequently asked questions document \(PDF, 415kb\)](#).

Am I eligible?

Guidance from the Department for Education states that you will need to meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- You earn, or expect to earn, the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage (as a minimum) for the first three months following application.
 - This equates to £120 a week (or about £6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week (or about £5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old.

- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hour's contract.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria above and the other is:
 - Unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
 - On maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where you are in a 'start-up period' (i.e. newly self-employed) you do not need to demonstrate that you meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If you are a non-European Economic Area (EEA) national, you must have recourse to public funds.

Who will not qualify?

You will not meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000.
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds).

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

- You will receive a "grace period" - this means you will be able to keep your childcare for a short period.
- Once the "grace period" has lapsed, you may be entitled to the universal 15 hour entitlement.

Are there any additional costs?

You may be charged by your childcare provider for lunches or for any additional hours of childcare needed. Please speak to your childcare provider for details. These additional charges are not covered by this scheme.