



**Cumberland  
Council**

# Up to 30 hours of free childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds

Apply now at  
**Childcare  
Choices**

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)



## Eligibility Criteria

- Each parent or the single parent in a lone parent household will need to expect to earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or their national minimum wage rate over the forthcoming quarter;
- Where one or both parents are in receipt of benefits in connection with sickness or parenting, they are treated as though they are in paid work;
- Where one parent (in a couple household) is in receipt or could be entitled to be in receipt of specific benefits related to caring, incapacity for work or limited capability for work that they are treated as though they are in paid work;
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months in order to qualify for the extended entitlement.
- If either or both parents' income exceeds £100,000 they will not be eligible for the extended entitlement.

## When will my child be eligible for a free place?

If your child's third birthday falls between:	Your child will become eligible for a free place from:
1 January and 31 March	The start of the Summer Term (April)
1 April and 31 August	The start of the Autumn Term (September)
1 September and 31 December	The start of the Spring Term (January)

## Eligibility Checking Process

- 1 Parents apply to HMRC using Childcare Choices web page
- 2 If eligible parent issued with an eligibility code
- 3 Parent takes eligibility code, National Insurance Number and child's date of birth to provider of their choice
- 4 Provider conducts a verification check with local authority
- 5 Once verified parent and provider can arrange when 30 hours free childcare can be claimed
- 6 Parents need to self –verify eligible every 3 months – HMRC will send reminder
- 7 Local authority will audit eligibility of parents and will notify providers when parents are no longer eligible
- 8 Parent's HMRC helpline number 0300 123 4097 for questions about eligibility
- 9 Parents MUST APPLY the term before they intend to access their 30 hours

**Find out more at [cumberland.gov.uk](http://cumberland.gov.uk)**