



AVANTI FIELDS

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30 hours Free Pre-School Education

A guide for Parents
Avanti Fields School

March 2024

What Child Care is available for me?

- All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to 15 hours a weeks, or 570 hours a year or free early education. This is the universal Pre-School entitlement.
- This entitle may increase to 30 hours a week if the child's parents are working and meet the following eligibility criteria-

30 hours free childcare eligibility criteria:

You may be able to get 30 hours free childcare if:

- you live in England
- your child is 3 to 4 years old

There are:

- [different schemes in Scotland](#)
- [different schemes in Wales](#)
- [different schemes in Northern Ireland](#)

The childcare:

- must be with an [approved childcare provider](#)
- stops when your child starts in reception class (or reaches compulsory school age, if later)

You may have to pay for extra costs like meals, nappies or trips.

If you've already registered, you can [sign in to your childcare account](#).

You can apply online for a childcare account to get a code for 30 hours to give to your provider.

How can you use the 30 hours free childcare?

You can get 30 hours of free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year (during school term time).

You may be able to get free childcare for 52 weeks if you use fewer than 30 hours per week. Check with your childcare provider to find out if this is something they offer.

Eligibility

Your eligibility depends on:

- if you are working
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your child's age and circumstances
- your immigration status

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits, childcare vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare.

If you are working

You can usually get 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

If you're on adoption leave for a child aged 3 to 4 years old, you must return to work within 31 days of the date you first apply for 30 hours free childcare for that child.

If you are not currently working

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.

You can apply if you're starting or re-starting work within the next 31 days.

Your income

You'll need to expect to earn a certain amount over the next 3 months. This is at least the [National Minimum Wage or Living Wage](#) for 16 hours a week on average.

For example, over the next 3 months you expect to earn at least £1,853.28 - the National Living Wage for people over 23.

If you have a partner, they'll need to expect to earn at least this much too.

If you're self-employed and do not expect to make enough profit in the next 3 months, you can use an average of how much you expect to make over the current tax year.

This earnings limit does not apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

If you or your partner have an expected 'adjusted net income' over £100,000 in the current tax year you will not be eligible. This includes any bonuses you expect to get.

Your adjusted net income is your total [taxable income](#) before any personal allowances and minus things like Gift Aid.

Your child

You will not be eligible if your child does not usually live with you.

If you foster your child, you cannot use the online application to get 30 hours free childcare. Speak to your social worker and your [local authority](#) if you want to apply.

Your immigration status

To be eligible for 30 hours free childcare, you (or your partner if you have one) must have a National Insurance number and at least one of the following:

- British or Irish citizenship
- [settled or pre-settled status](#), or you have applied and you're waiting for a decision
- permission to access public funds - your UK residence card will tell you if you cannot do this

How to apply?

Do you have a government Gateway Account?

- If you do, please have your user ID and password ready.

- If not, you will need to create one:

You will need a Government Gateway account to complete your application. If you do not already have one, go to-

[Childcare service | Government Gateway: sign in or set up \(tax.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/government-gateway)

What do I do next?

Log on to the Government's website to apply for the 30 hours free childcare account or sign into your child service account here. You can also apply for tax free childcare:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>

You'll need your details (and your partner's, if you have one), including your:

- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you're self-employed

If you pay for childcare and want to use Tax-Free Childcare to get help with costs, you can also apply using this service.

It usually takes 20 minutes to apply. You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days.

Reconfirm every 3 months

You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months, if you're claiming or have applied for:

- [30 hours funded childcare](#)

You must reconfirm 3 months from the date you applied, even if you haven't started using these funding schemes yet.

How do I reconfirm?

You will get a text and/or email 4 weeks before your reconfirmation deadline. This will prompt you to [log into your childcare account](#).

When you're in the account go to 'secure messages'. You can access this section at any time. Check the 'reconfirmation' section to find your reconfirmation date.

You can reconfirm your eligibility up to 4 weeks before your reconfirmation date.

The next steps of the reconfirmation process will depend on your circumstances:

- **Your circumstances haven't changed**

You will need to tick a box to confirm that your circumstances haven't changed. You won't receive a new code but your existing one will be extended for another 3 months. <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account?step-by-step-nav=f517cd57-3c18-4bb9-aa8b-1b907e279bf9>

- **Your circumstances have changed**

You must amend and resubmit your details.

- *You completed your original application over the phone*

You need to phone the HMRC Customer Service helpline to reconfirm your eligibility.

- **You currently have a temporary code**

The reconfirmation process may differ for some parents. Such as if:

- your circumstances haven't changed you will need to tick a box to confirm this. You will not receive a new code but the existing one will get extended for 3 more months
- your circumstances have changed you must amend and resubmit your details
- you completed your original application over the phone. You will need to phone the [HMRC Childcare Service helpline](#) to reconfirm your eligibility
- you currently have a temporary code (these start with 11) you must complete a new application. You must do this through your childcare service account to get a permanent code

You will be prompted every three months to reconfirm that they remain eligible. If you are no longer eligible for 30 hours, and your child is already in a 30 hours place, you will enter a grace period and will be able to retain your child's place for a short period.

If you have to pay the costs yourself, additional sessions are available at £92.50 a week

In addition, all children in full- time Pre-School are asked to pay £25.00 a week to cover the costs of lunch time supervision and lunch.

Help and support

If you are still unsure of the application process or have any further queries about the 30 hours funding, we will do our very best to help you.

You can contact the school office who will talk you through the process.

Avanti Fields School Office: 0116 3266813