

Parents Guide to 3 & 4 Year old funding on the Isles of Scilly

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England can get up to 570 hours of free early education or childcare over 38 weeks of the year (*universal 15 hours entitlement*). Its also possible to stretch your entitlement by taking fewer hours over more weeks of the year.

3 and 4-year-olds may also be entitled up to an additional 570 hours of free childcare over 38 weeks of the year (or fewer hours over more weeks “stretch”), a total of 1,140 hours.

You can check whether you could be **eligible** for a range of government childcare offers, including 30 hours, via [Childcare Choices](#) or the [Childcare Calculator](#). Those who could be eligible for 30 hours will be directed to the digital childcare service to apply.

Your child can start their funded place from the 1 January, 1 April or 1 September following their 3rd birthday. If applying for the extended 30 hours entitlement please ensure that you apply the term before you wish to claim your place, otherwise you cannot take up the place until the following term.

You **do not need** to apply through the [digital childcare service](#) if you only want to claim the universal 15 hours entitlement. In this case speak directly to your childcare provider.

If you have applied and are entitled to the additional 15 hours you will be given a **30 hours eligibility code**. At the start of the application process, you will create a Government Gateway account, if you don't already have one, by the end of the application process you will have a **childcare service account**.

*If you encounter any problems with the application process or accessing the childcare account, you should direct your queries to the childcare service **Customer Interaction Centre on 0300 123 4097**.*

Next, request a Parent Declaration form from your childcare provider(s), in order to complete the form you will need your:

- 30 hours 11 digit eligibility code
- National Insurance Number
- Proof of your Child's Date of Birth

Your childcare provider(s) will contact the Children's Services team who will use this information to validate your code. If valid, this will confirm and secure your 30 hours place with childcare providers.

You will need to log into your childcare service account every three months to reconfirm your details in order to check that you are still eligible. You will receive prompts, via text message and/or email, four weeks before your reconfirmation deadline and again two weeks before the deadline.

Useful Contacts

Children's Services - extendedentitlement@scilly.gov.uk / 01720 424 022

Childcare Choices - www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare Calculator - www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator

30 hours free childcare: eligibility - www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-eligibility

Childcare Services - childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk