

## Will I have to pay?

No, the first 12½ hours (or 15 hours in some settings from **September 2009**) for 38 weeks a year are completely free. If you would like your child to attend for longer, you will need to ask the setting how much more you will have to pay - some may charge for additional things like hot meals or music sessions. You do not have to take up or pay for these additional things in order to access your free place.

## How do I find out where my child could go?

You can contact Solihull Family Information Service on: **0800 389 8667** or visit **[www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo)** for more information and a list of settings in your area that offer free places. You will then need to check that the setting you have chosen has a place available.

### For more information please contact: Solihull Family Information Service

Telephone: 0800 389 8667  
Text Message: 07740 046 045  
Minicom: 0121 704 8058  
Email: [familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo)



# Free early education for three and four year olds

## Important changes for 2009

**Solihull**  
**Family**  
Information Service



**All three and four year olds are entitled to free early education. This leaflet explains what your child is entitled to.**

### **Where can my child have a free place?**

Free places are available in the following:

- pre-schools or playgroups
- private day nurseries
- private or independent nursery schools
- nursery units in infant and primary schools

We refer to these as settings and they must be registered with the Council in order to offer a free place.

### **When can my child have a free place?**

Free early education is available at nursery units in schools from the September after the child's third birthday.

Your child can have a free place at all other settings according to the following dates:

<b>A child who is 3 between:</b>	<b>can have a free place:</b>
1 April and 31 August	from the following September
1 Sept and 31 Dec	from the following January
1 Jan and 31 March	from the following April

This will continue for a maximum of 6 terms, or until your child starts full-time education, (reception class in an infant or primary school).

### **What is my child entitled to?**

Your child is entitled to 12½ hours a week, 38 weeks of the year, completely free of charge. This will remain the same for most areas of Solihull until September 2010.

Your child can have up to two free sessions in one day. A free session lasts for 2½ hours.

**From September 2009**, some settings in the north of Solihull will be able to offer 15 hours a week free for 38 weeks a year.

Areas include:

- Castle Bromwich
- Kingshurst and Fordbridge
- Marston Green
- Chelmsley Wood
- Smiths Wood

### **All other areas will be offering this from September 2010**

The 15 hours a week will be offered in a range of ways.

This could be;

- 3 hours per day, over 5 days
- 5 hours per day, over 3 days
- 6 hours per day, over 2 days and 3 hours over 1 day

You can contact us on 0800 389 8667 to find out about the settings in your area. You will need to speak to your chosen setting to find out what they are able to offer you.

### **Can the free hours be split between different settings?**

The free hours can be split between two settings but you can only have the maximum number of hours per week in total. If your child is attending more than one please let both of them know, so that your free place can be split accordingly.

