

Free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds



Extended childcare entitlement

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week free early education in an Ofsted registered setting the term after their third birthday. This can be with a Childminder, Pre-School, Day Nursery and Wraparound or in a School Nursery in the September after your child's third birthday.

Some children are also eligible for an additional 15 hours free early education each week. The total 30 hours extended entitlement can be taken during term time or alternatively spread over the year between 6am and 8pm for up to 10 hours a day. Your childcare setting will advise you of the pattern of hours they are able to offer.

In any one day, the extended hours are limited to two sites and three childcare providers. The free hours do not include the cost of consumables like drinks, meals and nappies.

Finding a setting

Solihull Family Information Service can help you find a setting that meets your needs.

For more information on free early education and for a register of providers in Solihull please visit us at: <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/children/childcare/earlyeducation3-4yearolds>

Alternatively, you can call us on 0800 389 8667 or email familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk.

If you are looking for a childcare setting outside Solihull you may find the following website useful <http://finder.familyandchildcaretrust.org/kb5/fct/childcarefinder/home.page>

See reverse to find out if you will be eligible for the 30 hours



Criteria for the 30 hours

Parents will be eligible for the extended hours where:

- All parents (whether two-parent family or lone parent) are working and earning a minimum of the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or Living Wage (includes income received from tax credits or Universal Credit) and one parent's income does not exceed £100,000
- One or both parents are on leave (parental, maternal etc.)
- One or both parents are on statutory sick pay
- Parents on zero hours contracts and those who are registered as self-employed
- One parent is employed and the other parent has either: substantial caring responsibilities and or a disability; is a foster carer with their own 3 and 4 year old children

If you are eligible, you will receive a code to take to your preferred provider. Parents who are in training will not be eligible as they can receive other government support.

You can visit the childcare service website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check your eligibility and call their national helpline on 0300 123 4097 should you need assistance.

You must apply by the end of the month before the term begins or you will not be able to access the additional hours for the term. We would recommend submitting your application earlier in case of any delays in processing the application.

You will be required to carry out regular re-checks to maintain eligibility so it is vital to follow the instructions and do these on time.

To find out more information visit:
www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo
or call: 0800 389 8667
Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk