



30 Hours Free Childcare for 3 and 4 Year Olds



You may have heard about a national initiative to increase the number of free hours of childcare available to some families across the country from 15 hours a week to 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds.

Families will be entitled to the extended offer where:

- both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW); and less than £100,000 per year.
- One or both parents is either on maternity/paternity or adoption leave; or where one parent has substantial caring responsibilities and is in receipt of carers allowance, or where one parent is employed and one is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has been successful in becoming one of a number of Innovator authorities across the country tasked with testing aspects of the scheme to ensure that the rollout runs smoothly for residents. Funding from Government will allow us to work over the coming months to develop Community Childcare Hubs to provide flexibility within the community to respond to the varying childcare needs of local families.

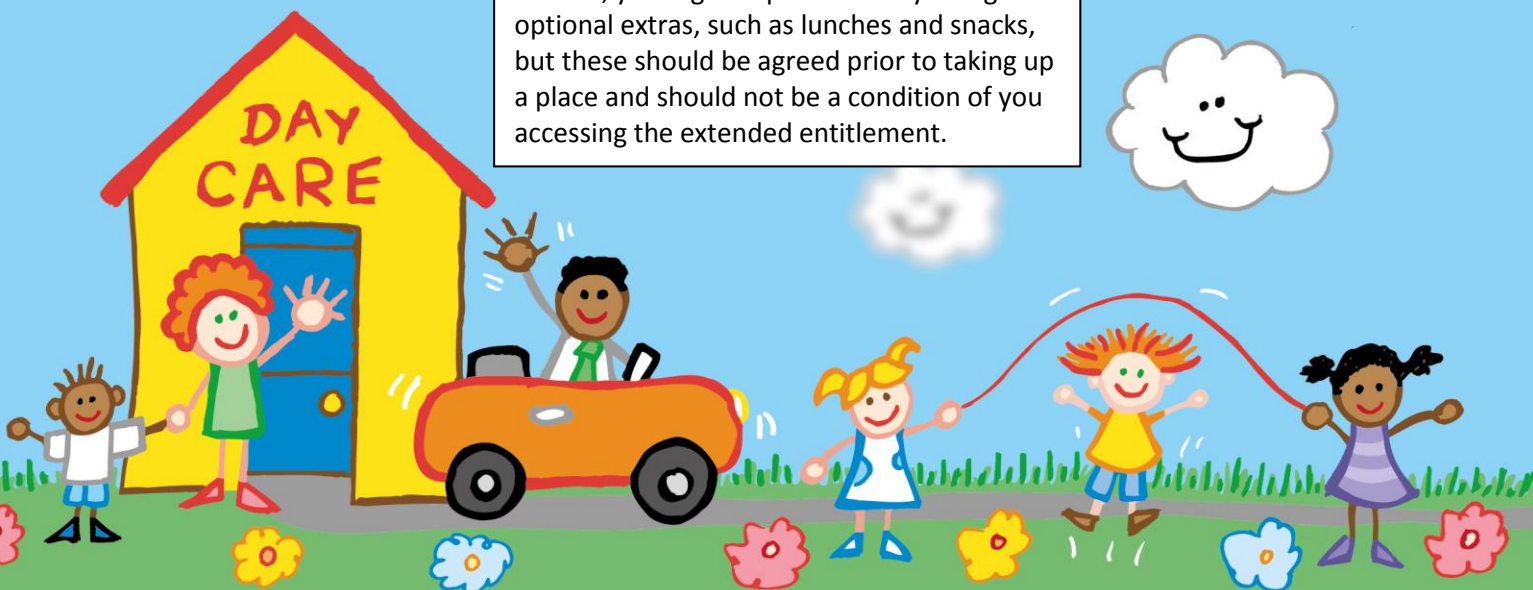
Whilst funding for places will not be available until the scheme is implemented nationally, the Council will be working with childcare providers across the borough and the Department for Education over the coming year to ensure that parents are able to access local childcare that fits with their personal working patterns and hours come September 2017.

Taking your entitlement:

There will be a number of different ways you may be able to access the additional free hours of childcare, e.g.:

- 30 hours free childcare per week taken over 38 weeks of the year. If your provider is open for more than 38 weeks of the year, or your child attends more than 30 hours a week during term time, you will have to pay for additional hours for the extra hours/weeks that your child attends in the year.
- 23.75 hours per week over 48 weeks – you may require this if your child accesses childcare from a Childminder.
- 22.25 hours for up to 51 weeks of the year – this may be a model you would use if your child attends a private day nursery.

Please note that for all of the above delivery models, your agreed provider may charge for optional extras, such as lunches and snacks, but these should be agreed prior to taking up a place and should not be a condition of you accessing the extended entitlement.



Places will start from September 2017. An online eligibility checking service will be coming soon. If you have any queries about the 30 hours free childcare places please call Information, Advice and Support Service on: 0300 123 7001