



DCYP Bites

Revised on 21/09/20

Free Early Years Childcare Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (including 30 hours free childcare)

The Offer

UK	Overseas
England –15 hours for children aged 3 and 4; 30 hours for working parents	In MOD Schools/settings, 15 and 30 hours free childcare can be accessed free of charge. Parents to apply via relevant nursery setting.
Scotland – at least 600 funded hours per year (up to 1140 hours in some local authority areas)	
Wales – up to 30 hours free early education/ childcare for working parents for 48 weeks of the year.	In Non-MOD schools/settings parents can claim a refund by means of Overseas Nursery Authority, ONA DIN accessible via Defence Intranet.
Northern Ireland –12.5 hours per week of free preschool education.	

What Parents need to do:

- Register early with CEAS if posted abroad with children
- If moving within the UK, check out what the local offer is prior to moving to avoid missing out on free hours
- Engage with nurseries early

Eligibility: Every parent with children aged 3 and 4 years old is eligible for the basic free childcare entitlement from the term following their child’s 3rd birthday.

Additional hours: In England and Wales, the additional hours are only available to working parents who can answer “yes” to the following:

- Do both you and your partner work 16 hours per week or more (NMW/NLW?)
- Is your individual annual employment income below £100,000?
- Are you a single parent?
- Are you on paid maternity leave?
- Are you a registered carer?

In Scotland, visit [www.scotland.nhs.uk](#) or [www.scotland.nhs.uk/early-learning-and-childcare](#) for information about early learning and childcare (ELC).

Issues applying online? Call Childcare Service Helpline on 0300 123 4097 to request a manual code

Useful Links - <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>; www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

In overseas locations, very reasonably practicable to do so, MOD will mirror entitlements which parents would have access to in England to ensure they are not disadvantaged. Please read 30 hours free childcare DIN for full details.