

Extended free entitlement (30 hours)

Update

This update is intended for colleagues and partners who work directly with Sutton families, please feel free to pass on this update to any colleagues that may find it useful.

Purdah

Due to the general election on the 8th June, the Government put on hold their national campaign to promote the extended free entitlement that is expected to launch in September 2017.

What is the Extended free entitlement?

The extended free entitlement is an additional 570 hours a year free childcare for 3 & 4 year olds available to **working** parents. If, the extended free entitlement is used term time along with the universal free entitlement (570 hours) this equates to 30 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year.

To be eligible for the extended free entitlement parents must meet the eligibility criteria, A parent, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £120 a week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage). If a parent, or their partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or are unable to work because they are disabled or have caring responsibilities, they could still be eligible.

Parents cannot get 30 hours free childcare if they, or their partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more.

For more information on eligibility visit www.sutton.gov.uk/freechildcare or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

How do parents apply?

Parents will be required to create a childcare service account via the central government childcare choices [website](#). Parents will be able to apply for the extend free childcare and tax free childcare using their childcare service account at the same time.

Eligible parents for the extended free entitlement will receive an 11 digit code that they must give to the childcare provider they wish to access their free entitlement. Childcare providers will be required to validate each code before a child can attend.

In addition, parents will need to reconfirm their eligibility for the extended free entitlement every three months. The online childcare service account will notify parent by text and email when their re confirmation is due.

Parents can find out more at www.sutton.gov.uk/freechildcare, Sutton Family information Service on 02028 770 600 or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Tax free childcare

Working parents with children under 12 (or under 17 for disabled children), can open an online account to pay for registered childcare. The government will top-up the money parents pay into the account. For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2. You can receive up to £2,000 per child, or £4,000 if disabled.

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Money in a parent's tax free childcare account can be used to pay for

- Registered childminders, nurseries and nannies
- Registered after-school clubs and playschemes
- Registered schools
- Home careworkers working for a registered home care agency

Information on how to apply can be found on the childcare choices website. Parents can search for registered childcare providers in their local area who have signed up to receive payment via the tax free childcare account [here](#)

Further information

www.sutton.gov.uk/freechildcare

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

www.childcareworks.co.uk

www.gov.uk