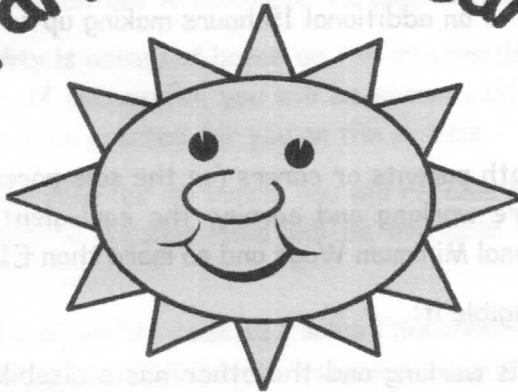


Farlea Childcare



DAY-CARE, BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL
CLUBS AND HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEMES

30 Hours Free Childcare

Information Booklet

What's Changing?

Currently all 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare a week from the term after their third birthday; this is not changing. You can access these free hours by contacting us.

From September 2017 families who meet the minimum earnings criteria could gain access to an additional 15 hours making up to a maximum of 30 hours per week.

Who's Eligible?

Families where both parents or carers (or the sole parent/carer, if a one parent family), are working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the National Minimum Wage and no more than £100,000 per year.

You will still be eligible if:

- one parent is working and the other has a disability or substantial caring responsibilities.
- a parent is away from work temporarily (sick or maternity)
- a grace period has been put in place by government to assist parents whose employment circumstances change.

Checking your eligibility (Childcare Choices)

You can now find out more and check your eligibility for 30 Hour's Childcare via the Childcare Choices website. Childcare Choices allows you to:

- check your eligibility for the scheme
- find out more about the scheme
- sign up for the scheme or register for email alerts (if not available yet)
- find out what you need to do next

Signing Up

Once you have visited the Childcare Choices website and you have received your email confirming you can sign up, you will need to:

1. Go onto the GOV.UK website to complete your application. If you don't have online access you will be provided with details of a help line number to contact to complete the application.
2. Your eligibility is assessed based on the information submitted and HMRC data. If successful, you will be shown confirmation that an account has been created for you on the system.
3. If you are eligible for 30 hours, you will receive an eligibility code into your secure account; this will be available from September 2017.
4. You take the eligibility code to Farlea Childcare to 'book' a place. The code will be validated by us before a place is offered to your child.
5. Upon successfully validating the eligibility code, we will agree on a starting date.
6. Your child is admitted into the provision for the length of the validity period.
7. You will receive notification to reconfirm your eligibility for 30 hours before the validity end date. You confirm that your circumstances have not changed since the initial application or update the application if it has.

Further Information

If you would like to book a space and/or arrange a visit to discuss the provision we offer or you have any questions regarding the 30-hour entitlement please speak to the Manager at your setting or feel free to contact Natalie on 07968 940 280.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

When will it begin?

In Staffordshire the 30 hours will be made available to all eligible families from September 2017. However, as Staffordshire is part of the pilot scheme, if you work for one of the employers involved in the trial you can start earlier (please visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk for more information).

Is the offer term time only?

We only offer the hours over term time; however, we do run a Holiday Playscheme during school holidays where you can pay for this cover.

What if childcare providers do not offer 30 hours?

You can only take 15 hours at a School Nursery Class. We are working closely with the school to offer the additional 15 hours, ensuring a seamless transition from one provider to another. Therefore, your 30 hours funding will be split between two providers.

Will my unfamiliar working pattern put me at a disadvantage?

We are flexible and explore ways in which we can meet your needs within our opening hours. Please contact us to discuss your working patterns and we will accommodate you wherever we can.

What if I no longer meet the criteria?

You will have to validate that you still meet the criteria every three months online via HMRC to continue receiving the additional 15 hours. If you no longer meet the criteria, a grace period will be allocated to give you the opportunity to find employment/increase hours, etc. therefore keeping the addition hours. If you still not meet the criteria after the grace period has elapsed, you will no longer receive the additional 15 hours.
