

## **Additional free nursery entitlement - 30 hours**

### **30 hours criteria and eligibility checking process**

The current universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds will continue to be 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (570 hours per academic year).

The new entitlement is an extension of the current entitlement and provides an additional 15 hours of free early education for children where parents are eligible.

### **30 hours for working families eligibility criteria**

- each parent or the single parent in a lone parent household will need to expect to earn the **equivalent** of 16 hours at the national living wage or their national minimum wage rate over the forthcoming quarter

\*Parents do not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week, but rather their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, for example, from April 2017 the NMW is £7.50 per hour for 25 year olds and over, therefore minimum income would be £120 a week.

- where one or both parents are in receipt of benefits in connection with sickness or parenting, they are treated as though they are in paid work
- where one parent (in a couple household) is in receipt or could be entitled to be in receipt of specific benefits related to caring, incapacity for work or limited capability for work that they are treated as though they are in paid work
- where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months in order to qualify for the extended entitlement.
- if either or both parents' income exceeds £100,000 they will not be eligible for the extended entitlement.

### **Eligibility checking process**

1. HMRC will ask parents to apply to HMRC to check if they are eligible. If parents are eligible an ELIGIBILITY CODE will be given to parents.
2. Parents will then provide the provider of their choice with the ELIGIBILITY CODE, National Insurance Number and child's date of birth.
3. The provider will then carry out a verification check to confirm the families eligibility. Provided the verification check is confirmed, the provider can then consider the application for the nursery place for the additional hours.