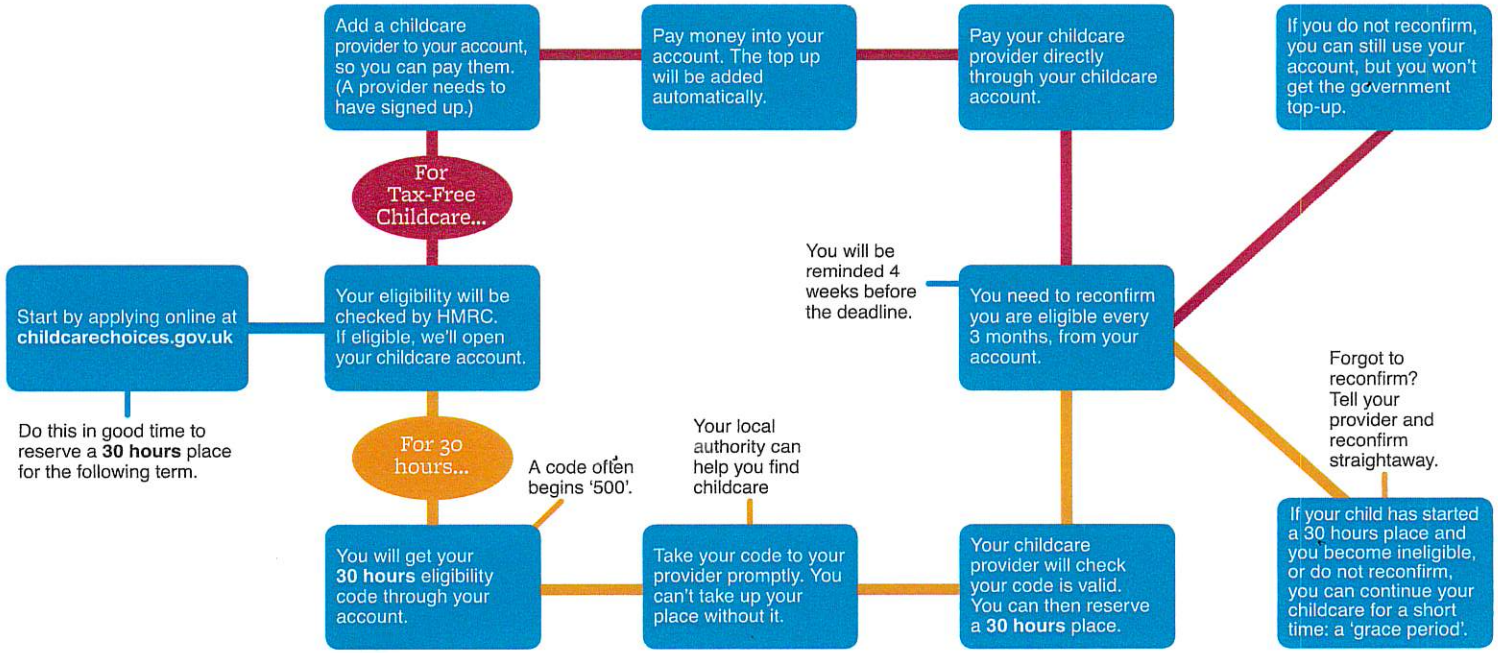
How to apply for 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare

Use the joint application for both Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours. Follow the steps below to get the most out of your childcare account and to access your 30 hours code.



Check your childcare options at **childcarechoices.gov.uk**

Childcare Choices

HM Government

About the government's new childcare offers

What is Tax-Free Childcare?

Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme to support working parents with childcare costs.

For every £8 you pay in, the government will pay in an extra £2. You can get up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for disabled children.

What is 30 hours?

Working parents of 3 and 4 year olds in England may be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare, for 38 weeks of the year (or fewer hours over more weeks). This is an additional 15 hours of childcare on top of the 15 hours universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds in England.

Am I eligible?

Find out if you are eligible at childcarechoices.gov.uk. The website also has a Childcare Calculator where you can learn more about which government offers might be best for you.

How do I apply?

You can apply via childcarechoices.gov.uk

You, and your partner, if you have one, will need your:

- National Insurance number(s)
- Details of one or more of the following – your UK Passport, tax credits, P60 or a recent payslip.

In some cases, additional checks may be needed to confirm whether you're eligible, so it's important to apply in good time. If you are found ineligible we will tell you why.

When can my child access a 30 hours place?

You can claim 30 hours from the term after:

- your child turns three, and
- the date you receive your eligibility code from HMRC. Whichever date is later.

We recommend that you apply in good time, so that you **receive your code the term before your child becomes eligible**. You can apply up to 16 weeks before your child turns three.

Will I have to pay for additional charges if I am using 30 hours?

Just like at school, your childcare provider can charge for additional services, for example, lunch, trips or music classes. These charges cannot be a condition of accessing your 30 hours place and alternative arrangements should be made available. Any charges should be itemised and cannot be a supplementary 'top-up'. You should speak to your provider for further information about any additional charges.

Is 30 hours only available in term time or all year round?

Like the existing 15 hours, eligible parents are entitled to a maximum of 30 hours a week in each of the 38 weeks of the academic year. However, you can stretch this offer over the year, for instance, you can take 22 hours a week for 52 weeks, or just under 24 hours for 48 weeks. You should speak to your provider about how they are offering 30 hours.

Can I use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours?

Yes, you can get Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours at the same time. You can't get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as tax credits, childcare vouchers or Universal Credit but you can get 30 hours alongside these schemes.

I don't have access to the internet. How do I apply?

If you need assistance or do not have access to the internet, you can call the childcare service helpline on **0300 123 4097** and apply over the phone.

