



Ministry
of Defence



Directorate Children & Young People

30 hours free childcare overseas and within the United Kingdom

Parents should be aware that in overseas locations the MOD funds the free childcare entitlement, and prior to being posted back to the UK, parents should visit <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare> to find out what their entitlement will be and what they need to do to apply. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland offer differing entitlements and the application process may vary.

Moving to England

Parents can apply for a 30 hours code from when their child is aged 2 years and 36 weeks. Children qualify from the term following their third birthday.

Parents can apply outside of these recommended dates, but they might not receive their code in time. Parents must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts. 30 hours codes are not valid overseas.

When your child turns 3	When they can get 30 hrs from	Recommended time to apply
1 Sep to 31 Dec	1 Jan	15 Oct to 30 Nov
1 Jan to 31 Mar	1 Apr	15 Jan to 28 Feb
1 Apr to 31 Aug	1 Sept	15 Jun to 31 Jul

Moving to Scotland

The Scottish Government has pledged to increase paid-for nursery places from the current 16 hours to 30 hours for children aged 3 and 4, and eligible two-year-olds, by August 2020. Please visit Scottish government pages for the latest information, <https://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare>

Moving to Wales

Wales provides 30 hours a week of free early education and childcare for working parents of children aged 3 and 4 years for 48 weeks of the year. Applications are dealt with directly by each Local Authority's Family Information Service (FIS) where the parents reside, <https://gov.wales/find-your-local-family-information-service>

Moving to Northern Ireland

Parents of children aged 3 and 4 years can apply to receive 12.5 hours per week of free, also known as funded, preschool education. This allocation can only be taken over 2.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, during term time. Places are provided by nursery schools, primary schools with nursery units and some voluntary and private providers. The places cannot be provided by childminders. Please visit <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/parents/childcare> for further information.

30 hours free childcare DIN refers and can be accessed via the Defence Intranet.

