

30 Hours - Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

When will 30 hours be rolled out in my area?

30 hours will be delivered in every area of England from September 2017. Parents in the four new early roll-out authorities (Dorset, Tower Hamlets, Leicestershire and North Yorkshire) will be able to benefit from 30 hours from April 2017, and around 4,500 parents are already receiving 30 hours in the existing 8 early implementer areas.

Is it childcare or early education?

All funded provision must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. There is no difference in the education and care standards which must be met for both the universal 15 hour and extended 30 hour entitlements.

How many weeks of the year is 30 hours available for?

Working families are entitled to 30 hours in each of the 38 weeks of the academic year. Parents can choose to stretch this offer over up to 52 weeks of the year where this meets their childcare needs, for instance 22 hours a week for 52 weeks, or just under 24 hours for 48 weeks.

Will the 15 hour entitlements continue?

All three and four year olds, and the most disadvantaged two-year olds, continue to be entitled to 15 hours early education a week.

Providers

Do providers have to offer 30 hours?

No. It is a provider's choice whether they deliver the 30 hours entitlement or not. They can choose to offer some or all of the hours. Parents are free to shop around to find appropriate funded provision.

Who can offer 30 hours?

Day-nurseries, childminders and playgroups that are registered on the Early Years Register, and childminders registered with an Ofsted-registered Childminder Agency can deliver the 30 hours entitlement in full, or work in partnership with other providers to deliver

part of it. Schools can also offer 30 hours. Parents will be able to split their entitlement across more than one provider.

Is funding for maintained nursery schools being cut?

Maintained nursery schools (MNS) are an important part of the early years sector, they provide valuable high quality services, often to disadvantaged areas, and make an increasingly important contribution to social mobility. We are giving LAs enough funding to allow them to maintain current levels of MNS funding, and we will consult in due course about their future. We want them to have a greater role in the pedagogical leadership of the early years system, and the sustainability to do this in the longer term. We also want local authorities to make full use of their expertise, experience and resources in whatever way local need requires.

How can sessional providers deliver 30 hours?

We encourage providers to work in partnership to offer 30 hours. For example, sessional providers who cannot offer 30 hours a week can work with childminders to offer wraparound care which meets the needs of working parents eligible for 30 hours.

Do parents have to take up the full 30 hours?

No, parents eligible for the 30 hours can take up any amount of childcare up to a maximum of 30 hours.

Can providers charge for meals?

Providers are able to charge parents for meals, nappies and discretionary items such as trips and additional teaching such as learning a musical instrument. However, these charges are voluntary and at the discretion of the parent and therefore cannot be a condition of accessing any free entitlement place.

Providers should deliver the free entitlements consistently to all children accessing any of the free entitlements, regardless of whether they opt to pay for optional hours, services, meals or consumables.

Funding

How much will providers be paid?

Local authorities determine the funding rates for providers in their area based on the [EYNFF Operational Guidance](#). All local authorities must tell providers their hourly rate before 31st March 2017.

Local authorities must now pass on the majority of the funding they receive centrally to providers – from 2017/18 they must pass on 93% and from 2018/19 at least 95%.

Local authorities will offer the same funding rate for both the universal 15 hours as well as the additional 15 hours. They must also offer a universal base rate to all types of providers by 2019-20.

Will providers be paid more to meet the needs of children with SEND?

Additional financial support is available for providers to support access for children with special educational needs.

New legislation requires all LAs to have a SEN Inclusion Fund, and to consult on how it will be allocated. In addition, the new Disability Access Fund (DAF) will pay £615 per year directly to providers to support access into early years for eligible children. Parents will need to apply for this allowance. Providers will be able to use the parent declaration form template, due to be published alongside the Model Agreement to identify eligible children. LAs will then check that the DAF eligibility requirements have been met before releasing any funds. Further information can be found within the [EYNFF Operational guidance](#).

Children with an identified special educational need (EHP) will receive additional funding.

Are there any other funding supplements for providers?

Local authorities must grant a supplement on the basis of deprivation. They also have the discretion to award supplements on the basis of rurality/sparsity, flexibility, quality and English as an additional Language.

Early Years Workforce

Who does the change to level 3 EYE qualification requirements apply to?

The current requirement for level 3 EYEs to also hold GCSEs in English and mathematics Grade A*- C to count in staff:child ratios as set out in the EYFS has been broadened to include other suitable level 2 qualifications, including functional skills, with effect from 3 April 2017.

This change means that practitioners who started their EYE qualification from 1 September 2014 will now need to hold suitable level 2 English and mathematics qualifications to count in the staff:child ratios at level 3.

The requirement sets the minimum qualification requirements. Employers are free to set their own specific requirements for recruitment of staff.

We have not removed GCSEs from the list of suitable qualifications and therefore some employers and training providers may wish to continue to apply them to recruitment.

What literacy and numeracy qualifications are accepted as a 'suitable level 2 qualification' to enable the holder to count in the level 3 staff: child ratios as outlined in the EYFS?

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for defining the level 2 qualifications that are suitable. These will be listed in on the [Early Years Qualifications List](#) from 3 April 2017 and are as follows:

○ **English**

- Functional Skills in English at Level 2
- GCSE/International GCSE in English Language and/or Literature to at least grade C (grade 4)
- Key Skills in Literacy at Level 2
- A Level/AS Level in English Language and/or English Literature to at least grade E
- O Level in English to at least grade C
- CSE grade 1 English (Language)

Also Recognised Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh equivalents.

○ **Maths**

- Functional Skills in Mathematics at Level 2
- GCSE/International GCSE in Mathematics to at least grade C (grade 4)
- Key Skills in Application of Number at Level 2
- A Level or AS Level in Mathematics or Pure Mathematics and/or Further Mathematics to at least grade E
- O Level in Mathematics to at least grade C
- CSE grade 1 Mathematics

Also Recognised Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh equivalents.

When will the qualifications list be updated to reflect this?

The qualifications list will be updated from 3 April when the change comes into effect.

Until the qualifications list is updated, the list of accepted qualifications can be found at Annex B on the [Government response to the consultation on Level 3 qualification requirements](#).

When will the change to the literacy and numeracy requirements be implemented?

The revised EYFS comes into force from 3 April 2017. However, the requirement for staff to hold a suitable level 2 English and maths qualifications to count in the staff: child ratios at level 3 applies to all staff who started their EYE qualification from 1 September 2014.

This means that those who hold or are currently working towards an EYE qualification (either stand alone or as part of an apprenticeship program) can count in the level 3 ratios if they hold a suitable level 2 qualification in English and maths once they have achieved their EYE qualification.

Eligibility

How will providers know if a child is eligible?

Parents will apply online and will be given a unique code; they must give this code to their provider, along with their national insurance number and child's date of birth, so that the provider can confirm with their local authority or a provider portal that it is a valid code. If they are eligible, they will receive a 30 hours eligibility code.

Each area will have their own system for doing this and many will mirror the checking

process for the two year old entitlement. We are funding local authorities to put digital portals in place so that providers can check this quickly and simply.

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