



## **30 hours free childcare**



Check your eligibility on <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> or visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents>

### **1. What is 30 hours free childcare?**

This entitlement is for working parents of three and four year old children was introduced in September 2017. This is an additional 15 hours per week entitlement in addition to the child's existing 15 hour free early education place.

This entitlement of 30 hours free childcare is offered at Heath Lane Nursery School term time only, 38 weeks of the year.

Additional sessions may be purchased to extend the day.

### **2. Who is eligible for 30 hours free childcare?**

Parents of three and four year olds will need to meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours free childcare.

- They earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months.
- This equates to £120 a week (or c.£6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week (or c.£5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old.
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to 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.
- If a non-EEA (European economic area) national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

A parent will not meet the criteria when;

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000
- Either parent is a non-EEA (European economic area) national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds).

For up to date information on eligibility please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) or [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents)

### **3. How will the Nursery know who are their eligible parents?**

It will be a parent's responsibility to apply for 30 hours free childcare via the online HMRC eligibility checker. Parents will receive an eligibility voucher code if they are eligible (which is 11 digits long) which they must show their chosen provider, along with their national insurance number and their child's date of birth.

### **4. Are families eligible for the whole year once they receive a voucher code?**

No, parents have a responsibility to re check their eligibility every three months with HMRC.

### **5. When can parent/carers apply?**

Parents can apply when the child reaches 2 years 39 weeks old.

## **Heath Lane Nursery School – 30 hour offer**

We are open 8.00am-5.30pm term time only, 38 weeks per year.

### **Heath Lane can offer your child 30 hours free early years education in the following ways:**

- Your child will have their core entitlement of 15 hours with their Key Person. This will either be 5 mornings (8.30-11.30) or 5 afternoons (12.30-3.30)
- Your child will have lunch club between 11.30-12.30 (they need to bring a packed lunch)

