

**Early Years Funding Entitlement Extension (EYFEE 30hours)
Frequently Asked Questions – Parents
January 2017**

What is the EYFEE?

The government plans to extend the 15 hours Early Years Funding Entitlement (EYFE) to 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds with working parents.

When will the EYFEE begin?

The extension of funding will start for all 3 and 4 year olds in September 2017.

Who will be eligible for the funding?

- Both parents must be in work, as defined below, and for single parent families, the sole parent must be in work
- For the purpose of this scheme, 'in work' is defined as being in employment (including self-employed) and earning more than the equivalent of the minimum wage for working 16hours a week. As an example, the current minimum wage is £7.20 per hour for over 25s, so the minimum weekly income to be eligible would be £7.20 x 16 = £115.20
- Each parent must also earn less than £100,00 per year
- One parent must be 'in work' if the other receives disability benefit or benefits related to caring responsibilities

How do parents apply?

- Parents will be sent a letter from the Department of Education and will be asked to apply online; if they are eligible they will receive a DERN (Department of Education Reference Number) code.
- The DERN code is then given to their chosen provider; the provider will then check the DERN code with the Local Authority and find out the expiry date. (further details on this process to be released mid-March 17)

How long will the DERN code last?

Each code last for three months, parents will need to reapply every 3 months.

What happens if parents fall out of eligibility?

There will be a grace period between 4-6 weeks a definitive period has not yet been defined. After that you will be expected to pay for any hours needed above the initial 15 hours or the child will only be able to attend their initial 15 hours.

Will I need to pay a deposit / registration / administration fee?

No, there should be no charges made to take up funded hours.

Do parents have to take up all 15 hours?

No, parents can take any amount of hours they wish to.

If parents don't want to take up the full 30 hours, will I be less likely to get a place?

No, there can be no requirements placed on taking up the funding.

Can parents take up hours with different providers?

Yes parents can use up to two providers a day or three over the week.

Can parents stretch the funded hours to cover school holidays?

Yes, however this would depend if your provider is able to offer this.

Can parents change providers they are not happy?

Yes however this has to be at the end of each term.

Will I get charged for lunches or trips out?

That is up to the provider, however they should allow you to bring your own food in and offer the option not to go on trips.

Will providers increase costs?

That will be down to individual providers.