



meadows
montessori
nursery

Free Early Education Entitlement



10.12 Free Early Education Entitlement

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education a week until they either go into reception class or reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). This free entitlement is paid from the term after your child turns three. Please see the cut-off dates below:

Born on or between	Terms for eligible funding
1 January – 31 March	Summer term (April onwards)
1 April – 31 August	Autumn term (September onwards)
1 September – 31 December	Spring term (January onwards)

Using Free Early Education Entitlement

30 hours funded childcare

You may be able to get up to 30 hours funded childcare. If you are eligible for the extra hours you must sign up online to get a code to give to your childcare provider to reserve your place. You may be able to get up to 30 hours funded childcare. If you are eligible for the extra hours you must sign up online to get a code to give to your childcare provider to reserve your place.

Eligibility

You can usually get 30 hours funded childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work - or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week - this is £120 if you're over 25

This earnings limit doesn't apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You're not eligible if:

- your child doesn't usually live with you
- the child is your foster child
- either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000



You can get 30 hours funded childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

Using Funded Early Education Entitlement

The 15/30 hour entitlement can currently be used:

- For morning sessions 8 - 12pm or 9 - 12pm
- For afternoon sessions 1 – 3.50pm
- Through a maximum of two childcare providers – you should arrange this with your chosen provider

Please note the lunch time session 12-1pm or the late session 4-6pm are not covered by the funded hours.

If your child is attending and claiming 30 hours at the nursery your hours will pro-rata over the course of the school year. If, however, your child attends 15 hours or less, full fees are payable out of the term time.

We also accept 2 year funding for those 2 year olds that have finding in place.

How to claim Funded Early Education Entitlement

We will be able to apply for Funded Early Education Entitlement funding on your behalf from Essex County Council. The funding is then paid directly to us on a termly basis.

Each term we will ask you to sign a parent/carer agreement form. The form is your commitment to us for your child's place for the coming term. We will then submit the form to Essex County Council to claim the Funded Early Education Entitlement for the next term.



Early Years Census and Personal Data

Each year, as we have children accessing the Funded Early Education Entitlement for three and four-year-olds we are required to complete an Early Years Census. This information is passed by each setting to Essex County Council, which provides it to the Department for Education.

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 early years settings must inform parents about the data they hold and how it is used. Data covers personal information such as names, addresses, date of birth, etc. This is known as a Privacy Notice. This should also include information about whether the data is passed to any third parties, for example the local authority.

If parents have any questions about how data is being used or stored within an early years setting, they should contact the us directly.

Local Authority use of personal data in relation to the Early Years Census and the Funded Early Education Entitlement

The Local Authority (LA) receives information about children attending early years settings as part of the annual Early Years Census and the Funded Early Education Entitlement headcounts.

Essex County Council holds this personal data and uses it to:

- support children's learning and development
- calculate the amount of funded early education entitlement funding to be allocated to each setting
- inform decisions about funding allocations for the LA's early years provision
- carry out its other statutory functions such as the assessment of any special educational needs a child may have.

It also uses the information to derive statistics on, for example, the number of additional early years places that will be required to meet future demand. The statistics are used in such a way that individual children cannot be identified.