**3 & 4 Year old childcare funding FAQs**

**What funding is available for 3 & 4 year olds?**

All children are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week (for 38 weeks) starting the term after they turn 3, this is known as universal funding.

Children from working families may be entitled to an additional 15 per week, this is known as extended funding.

**How do I apply?**

If you are claiming for the Universal 15 hours your childcare provider will apply on your behalf. If you wish to apply for the Extended funding you need to visit [**www.childcarechoices.gov.uk**](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) and apply online.

**Who is eligible for Extended funding?**

Children in 2 parent households where both parents earn the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national living wage (£125 per week). In single parent households the sole parent must earn the equivalent of this.

You can't get 30 hours free childcare if you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more.

**When is my child eligible?**

Your child can start in their childcare place the term after they turn 3 years old and have received a valid 30 hours code, **whichever is later**. Term start dates are 1st September, 1stJanuary and 1st April.

**Do I need to reapply?**

You need to re-confirm your details every 3 months to be able to continue to access your 30 hours of childcare. HMRC will advise you of the date you need to reconfirm by.

**Who processes applications?**

All applications are processed and managed by HMRC.

**Where can I go for further support?**

Additional help can be found through the 30 hours helpline **0300 123 4097** or at [**www.childcarechoices.gov.uk**](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

**Applications from working foster parents**

Working foster parents can also apply provided all registered foster parents work outside of their foster parent responsibilities. There is a separate application process for this, please email [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk) for more informaTION