

LAWNSWOOD CHILDCARE LTD

30 Hours Factsheet

Introduction

The term after a child's birthday, all children become eligible for the universal 15 hours funding. Parents do not need to make an application for the universal funding, this is claimed automatically through the nursery.

Since September 2017, eligible parents are also able to apply for an additional 15 hours extended entitlement towards the cost of their childcare fees. Parents need to make an application for the additional funding and if eligible, supply their 11 digit validation code to nursery.

Background to the scheme

As with the 15 hour universal entitlement, the 'free' hours that parents receive are woefully underfunded by the government and do not cover the true cost of providing the high quality childcare that our parents expect and our children deserve. We therefore had to carefully consider how Lawnswood would offer parents the 30 hours entitlement in a fair and sustainable way.

While, in principle, we whole heartedly support the Government's efforts to support working parents with their childcare costs, referring to those hours as 'free' is evidently misleading. The deficit in funding is, by necessity, absorbed by providers and their parents and is a significant factor in the rapidly increasing cost of childcare outside of funded hours. The base rate we receive from the government is £3.90 per hour, frozen until 2022. This comes in spite of our ever increasing costs such as staff wages, pensions, insurance, rent, utilities, consumables and business rates.

Significant numbers of providers have been forced to either 'opt out' of offering the additional entitlement or have sadly had to close their doors. We don't think this is right or fair and several childcare

organisations representing the sector have been lobbying on our behalf, notably the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA), Champagne Nurseries Lemonade Funding (CNLF) and the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA). You can find more information about the situation we are facing via the following links:

<https://www.pre-school.org.uk/fairfuturefunding>

[http://www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/Campaigns/General Election/Child care Passport.aspx](http://www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/Campaigns/General_Election/Child_care_Passport.aspx)

<http://www.champagnenurseries.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChampagneNurseries/>

How we offer the 30 hours

Lawnswood are offering the 30 hours as a stretched model of 22.35 hours per week over 51 weeks per year. Christmas week will still be chargeable at full rate. We will also offer a limited number of term time only 30 hour per week contracts for registered teachers and teaching assistants, to be taken as three full days 38 weeks per year; evidence will be required of one parent's teaching or teaching assistant status.

There will be an additional charge for funded sessions to cover the cost of additional services including snacks, meals, consumables and any extra hours of care. This charge is voluntary. Parents may opt to provide their own healthy snacks, meals and consumables, such as wipes, for each session their child attends.

Eligibility

Parents of three and four year old children will need to meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours childcare entitlement:

- Earn, or expect to earn, the equivalent to 16 hours worth of income at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months. This equates to £120 a week (or £6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old, £112.80 a week (or £5,800

a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old, and £56 a week for apprentices in their first year. 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, or:
- 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 one or both parents is a non-EEA national, the parent applying must have recourse to public funds.

A parent will not meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000
- One or both parents is a non-EEA national and the parent applying does not have recourse to public funds.

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

- They will receive a 'grace period' – this means they will be able to keep their childcare for a short period, allowing the parent to adjust to their new arrangement.
- Once the 'grace period' has lapsed, the parent would be entitled to the universal 15-hour entitlement only.

How do you apply

You can make your application for the 30 hours childcare entitlement through the following website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

The Childcare Choices website lists all of the government offers of support with childcare costs, so that you can determine which would be the most beneficial for you, including 30 hours childcare entitlement, tax credits, universal credit, tax free childcare and childcare vouchers.

Please note that once you have made an application for the 30 hours childcare entitlement you will no longer be eligible to claim universal or tax credits.

If you are eligible for the 30 hours entitlement, you will be given an 11 digit code that you will need to give to nursery, along with your date of birth and NI number. We can then validate your funding with the local authority. In order to continue receiving the entitlement You will need to apply every three months in order to re-confirm your eligibility. Please remember that this requirement is the parents responsibility and not Lawnswood Childcare's.

Tax Free Childcare

In conjunction with the 30 hours entitlement, the government is offering a tax free childcare scheme. This is to help working parents with any additional childcare cost they may incur in excess of the 30 hours. You can apply for tax free childcare *at the same time* as for the 30 hours entitlement. Please note that this offer is to replace the current childcare voucher scheme and *cannot be accessed together with childcare vouchers, tax credits or universal credit.*

Tax free childcare is for working families, including the self-employed, **in the UK**, with **children under 12 (under 17 if disabled)**. After your application, an online account is created and for every £8 you pay in, the government will contribute an extra £2, up to £2,000 **per child, per year.**

Voluntary charges

In order to comply with the government model agreement for the 30 hours offer, the payment for extra hours and services must be voluntary. In this case, a parent can request to provide their own healthy meals from home, including breakfast, lunch, tea and morning and afternoon snacks, as well as consumables such as wipes, cotton wool etc. For the 30 hours offer we cannot break the sessional price down to individual components. This means that parents must either agree to pay the additional service charge or provide **all** additional requirements themselves.

Parents who do not pay the sessional charge may also have to pay for occasional additional activities, such as trips out, Spanishtastic, the Animal Man etc if your child attends nursery on a day when one of these sessions takes place. Advanced notice will be given ahead of these additional activities taking place.

For further information please either speak with the nursery manager or contact admin on 0121 748 5533 or admin@lawnswoodchildcare.co.uk.