



Buckinghamshire Family Information Service



3 and 4 year olds funded childcare for working parents

What information will we cover?



- Overview of the scheme
- What parents need to do:
 - Checking eligibility using [Childcare Choices](#) website
 - Contacting provider to check their offer
 - Signing up and validating their code to secure a place
- Where to go for extra help



Overview of scheme

- All three and four year olds are still entitled to up to 15 hours of free early education over 38 weeks (51 weeks stretched offer).
- Working parents who meet the criteria could be entitled to an extra 15 hours (30 hours total).
- The hours can be shared across more than one provider.
- Additional hours can be taken in and out of term.
- Not every provider will be offering 30 hours.



What do parents need to do?

1. Check if they are eligible.
2. Speak to their childcare provider to establish if they are offering the 30 hours.
3. If they need to find a provider offering 30 hours, check the [BFIS website](#).
4. Sign up and receive a code.
5. Verify the code with their childcare provider to confirm their childcare place.

We will now take you through these steps in more detail.



Who is eligible?

- Parent/carer of a three or four year old
- Earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at [National Minimum or Living Wage](#) over the coming three months.

£120	(£6000)	Over 25 years of age
£112.80	(£5,800)	21 to 24 years of age

- This applies whether they are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.



Who is Eligible?



- Parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- One or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- One parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, are a carer or limited capability to work.
- Parent is in a 'start-up period' (example: they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.



Who is Eligible?

- If a non-EEA national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

Note: Please be aware that the entitlement to a free place does not offer a guarantee of a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of provision.

Who will not qualify?

- A parent with an income of more than £100,000
- A parent who is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds)

Checking eligibility



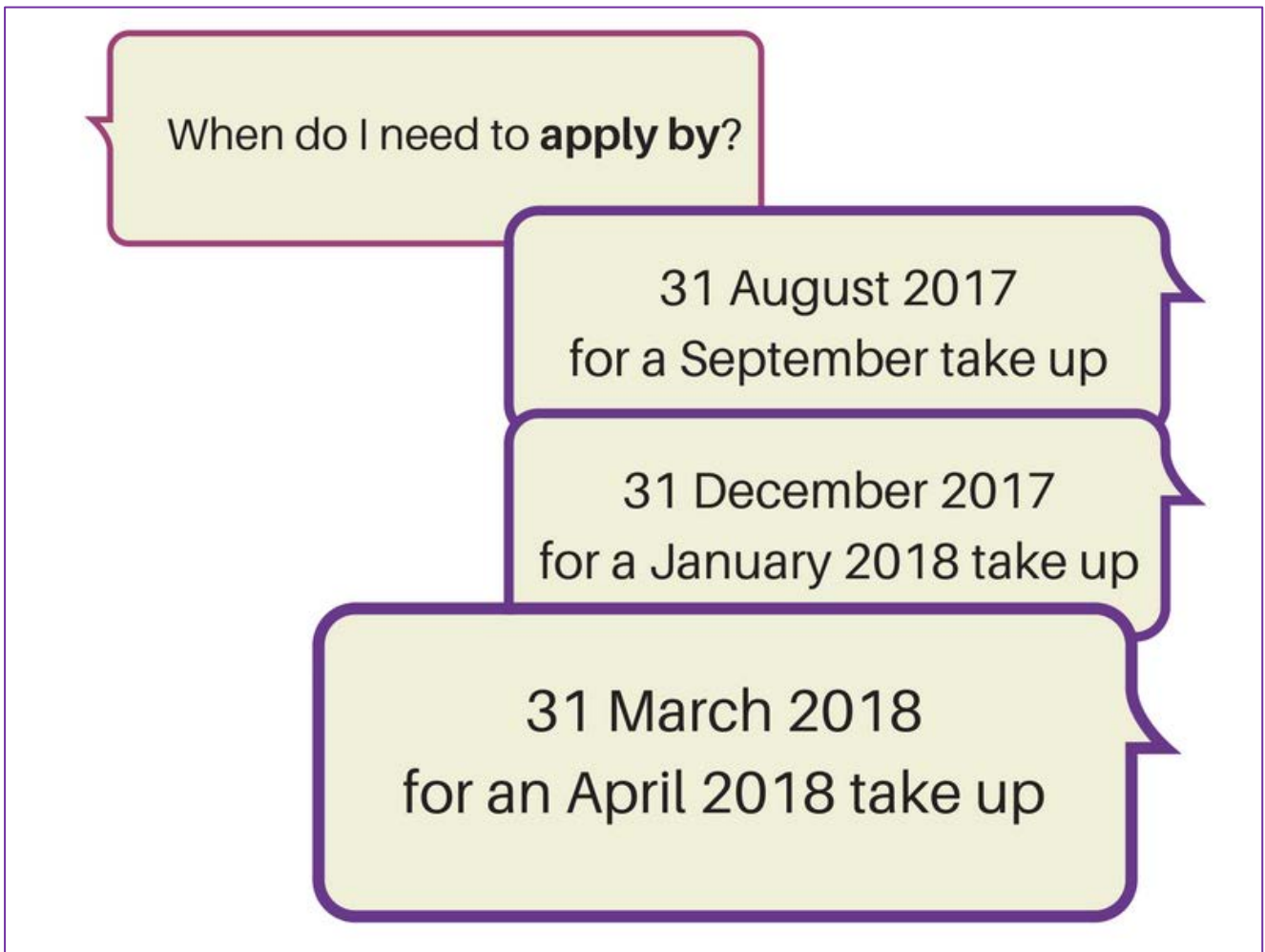
Visit: [ChildcareChoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

A single point of information for all the government funded childcare offers
(including Tax Free Childcare)



ChildcareChoices.gov.uk allows you to:

- check your eligibility for each of the childcare schemes
- find out more about each scheme
- sign up or register for email alerts (if not available yet)
- find out what you need to do next and where to go



Signing up



Once parent/carer has visited **ChildcareChoices.gov.uk** they will need to visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website to make their application.

The eligibility is assessed on the information submitted and HMRC data. **They will be required to create a Government Gateway ID as part of the process.**

If successful, they will be shown confirmation that a **childcare service account has been created for them on the system and will receive an 11-digit eligibility code.**



Signing up

- If also applying for [Tax Free Childcare](#), they will receive their **30 hours' code at the same time.**
- Parent takes eligibility code to chosen childcare provider to 'book' a place. The code will be validated by the childcare provider before a place is offered.
- The code must be validated by the provider before 31 August 2017 for a September start.



Signing up

- Upon successfully validating the eligibility code, parent and childcare provider agree on a date when the provision will begin.
- Child attends provision for the length of the validity period (3 months).



When would the extended entitlement stop?

Parent prompted by text, and/or email every 3 months to reconfirm eligibility details. If they do not reconfirm, or circumstances change, they will only be able to access the extended entitlement hours for a short time known as a 'Grace Period'.

If the grace period has expired and they have not met the eligibility criteria again, they would only be able to access the universal 15 Hours.

Extended entitlement hours will also stop:

- When child reaches compulsory school age
- When child attends a reception place in a maintained school or academy



Find out more

www.BucksFamilyInfo.org/30hours

- [15 hours free childcare for 3 and 4 years \(universal\)](#)
- [30 hours free childcare \(Sept 2017\)](#)
- [Checking your eligibility](#)
- [Looking for 30 hour childcare providers](#)

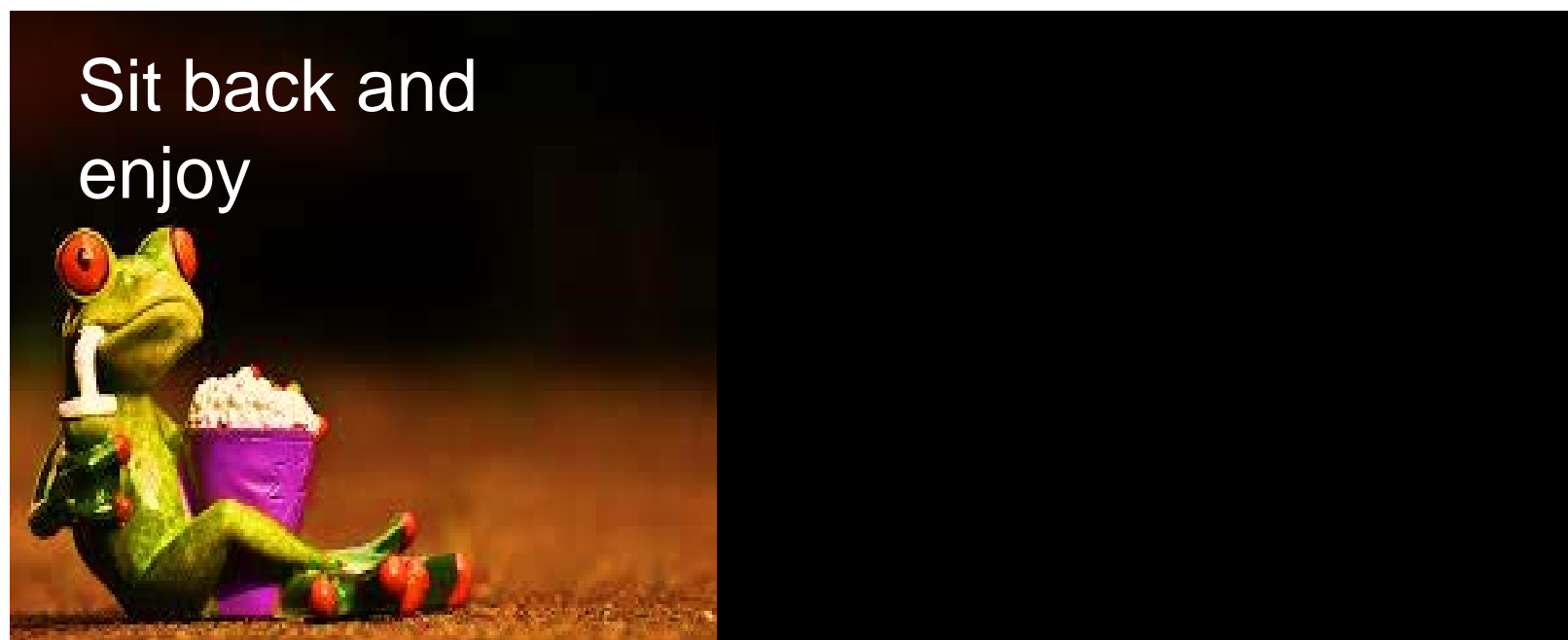


The following slideshow guides you through important
FAQ's – Part 1





The following slideshow guides you through important
FAQ's – Part 2





Who to contact

Contact HMRC

For registration, account queries and appeals:



0300 123 4097

Contact BFIS

For local queries:



01296 383065



Buckinghamshire
Family Information Service
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30Hours





Any questions?

