

# FREE Early Education

# and Childcare Places

## for 3 & 4 year olds

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



You can contact the Nottingham City Council  
Families Information Service on:  
Freephone: **0115 8765910**  
[www.asklion.co.uk](http://www.asklion.co.uk)

Please note that calls from mobiles will be charged at your  
network provider's standard rate.



**Nottingham**  
City Council

## Why take up a funded early education and childcare place for your child?

Children learn best through play and early learning. Childcare can help develop language, communication, social skills and prepare children for their future. Through accessing a funded place, your child will have fun, learn to socialise and make new friends.

## When can your child access their funded early education and childcare place?

All 3 and 4 years olds are entitled to 15 hours a week of free quality early education and childcare, starting the term after their third birthday.

Children born between:	Funded places can start from:
1st January - 31st March	Summer term (from 1st April)
1st April - 31st August	Autumn term (from 1st September)
1st September - 31st December	Spring term (from 1st January)

## What is your child entitled to?

Your child is entitled to a maximum of **15 hours per week for 38 weeks** of the year. This equates to **570 hours** of free early education and childcare a year.

## How does my child receive the funded hours?

The funding is paid directly to the school or childcare provider by the Local Authority. Your child can attend a childcare provider that is registered to provide funded places or a school nursery, so long as they have availability. Providers include:

- Childminders
- Day Nurseries
- Preschool Playgroups
- School Nursery Classes



## PLEASE NOTE:

- Some schools and childcare providers do offer the early education and childcare places 'flexibly'. A flexible offer could include a choice of full and half days or the opportunity to 'stretch' the hours across more than 38 weeks of the year. You need to discuss with the school or childcare provider of your choice what their offer is.
- The early education and childcare places can be taken at a maximum of two sites per day – which means you may use any combination of school nursery and childcare providers to access the funded hours.

## Should you have to pay anything towards your early years and childcare place?

Your provider should not charge you for any of your funded hours.

- Your provider may charge you for additional services such as snacks or specific activities, or extra childcare that is additional to the early years and childcare funded hours. These additional services cannot be offered as a condition of you accessing your early education and childcare funded place.
- You cannot be charged administration fees if your child is only accessing the early education and childcare funded hours.

## How to claim a funded place

- Call the Families Information Service on **0800 458 4114** or visit [www.asklion.co.uk](http://www.asklion.co.uk) for a complete list of providers in your area.
- Contact the provider of your choice and arrange a visit. If you are happy for your child to attend, the provider will ask you to complete the necessary forms.
- When you have secured a place the provider will notify us and we will pay the provider direct.

## 30 hours of funded early education and childcare for 3 & 4 year olds

Working parents who meet the eligibility criteria could be entitled to an additional 15 hours of early education, making a total of up to 30 hours per week (over 38 weeks, or 1140 hours across the year).

**Please note:** Foster carers of 3 & 4 year olds may also be eligible for the extended entitlement, for further information please speak to your Social Worker.

Find out if you are eligible for the extra 15 hours of early education and apply online at the HMRC website: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). For additional support you can contact the 30 Hours Help Line number: **0300 1234 097**

### Other funding:

If your child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, your childcare provider or school may be able to claim for the Disability Access Fund. This is an annual payment to support the provider to make reasonable adjustments.

### Contact Us...

You can contact the  
**Nottingham City Council  
Families Information Service on:**

Freephone: **0800 458 4114**

Please note that calls from mobiles will be charged at your network provider's standard rate.

Email: [fis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:fis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

You can also visit us on the web at:

[www.asklion.co.uk](http://www.asklion.co.uk)

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