Your new childcare account

Apply for 30 hours free childcare and Tax-Free Childcare online from childcarechoices.gov.uk

Your eligibility will be checked by HMRC. If eligible, we’ll open your childcare account.

You will get your 30 hours eligibility code through your account.

Your childcare provider will check your code is valid. You can then reserve a 30 hours place.

You need to reconfirm you are eligible every 3 months, from your account.

You will be reminded 4 weeks before the deadline.

Take your code to your provider promptly. You can’t take up a free place without it.

Give this code to your childcare provider, or your local authority can help you find childcare.

Pay money into your account. The top up will be added automatically.

Pay your childcare provider directly through your childcare account. Payments are made using Bacs.

Forgot to reconfirm? Tell your provider and reconfirm straightaway.

If your child has started a 30 hours place and you become ineligible, or do not reconfirm, you can continue your childcare for a short time: a ‘grace period’.

If you do not reconfirm, you can still use your account, but you won’t get the government top-up.

Your child can continue in their 30 hours place for another 3 months, before reconfirming again.

Do this in good time to reserve a 30 hours place for the following term.

A code often begins ‘500’.

Check your childcare options at childcarechoices.gov.uk