

For more information about early years settings in Warwickshire and to get a list of early years settings in your area please contact the Family Information Service on

Tel: 0845 090 8044

Email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

For specific enquiries please contact the Early Years Funding Team on

Tel: 01926 742235 or 742233

Web: www.warwickshire.gov.uk



EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE ENTITLEMENT FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

How to access a free early education place.

If your child is 3 or 4 they can access a free early education place from the start of the school term after their 3rd birthday until statutory school age.

CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN:	FREE PLACES 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)

WHERE CAN MY CHILD ACCESS A PLACE?

Your child can access their free early education place with an early years provider such as:

- Full day care nurseries
- Pre-Schools
- Playgroups
- Childminders
- Nursery Schools and classes

These are called 'settings' and should be Ofsted registered. They are responsible for claiming the funding for your child's place directly from Warwickshire County Council and should be registered to do so.

HOW MANY FREE HOURS CAN MY CHILD ACCESS?

The early education entitlement is for 570 hours per year, over a minimum of 38 weeks of the year (a maximum of 15 hours per week).

This free entitlement can be taken flexibly but there are limits outside which the early education funding will not be paid. These limits are:

- No session longer than 10 hours in any one day
- No session shorter than 2½ hours in any one day
- Not before 7 am or after 7 pm
- The full 15 hours over no fewer than 2 days
- No more than 2 childcare providers can be used at any one time
- 570 hours taken over no fewer than 38 weeks

HOW DO I CLAIM MY FREE ENTITLEMENT?

The early education funding is paid directly to the setting your child attends. These settings must be registered with Warwickshire County Council to receive the early education funding. It's also available at school nurseries.

WILL I HAVE TO PAY ANY ADDITIONAL FEES?

If your child attends for more than 15 hours per week you will be charged for these additional services accessed above the free entitlement.

CAN I CLAIM THE FREE ENTITLEMENT AT MORE THAN ONE SETTING?

Yes, parents can claim the entitlement across a maximum of two settings.

CAN MY CHILD CHANGE SETTINGS?

Not during the school term time unless it is an exceptional circumstance such as moving into the area.