

# Early Education & Childcare

## Free early education and childcare for three and four year olds

### You can apply now for a free place for your child

All children from the term after they are three are entitled to 570 hours of free early education per year until they start full-time school

Your child is born between:	Your child can start:
1 April – 31 August	On or after 1 September after their third birthday
1 September – 31 December	On or after 1 January after their third birthday
1 January – 31 March	On or after 1 April after their third birthday

Future Doctor?



### Where can I get more advice?

All the information you need is available on our website

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents)



Free early education can be taken at:

- childminders registered with Ofsted
- day nurseries
- nursery schools
- pre-schools
- schools with nursery classes

All providers deliver the early years foundation stage curriculum and offer the same learning opportunities for children. All providers are inspected by Ofsted and some providers can provide flexible provision and opportunities for additional hours.

96% of all Hertfordshire providers are graded good or outstanding by Ofsted. Evidence shows that regular, high quality early education has lasting benefits for all children.

Regardless of where your child accesses their free early education entitlement they will experience a varied and stimulating range of play and early learning activities, including:

- learning by playing and exploring
- creative and critical thinking
- socialising and making friends
- having fun, in a safe and nurturing environment
- being school ready.

You can choose to take these hours at one provider or split them between providers.

Since September 2017, working families who meet a national criteria may be eligible for 30 hours free childcare (a total of 1140 hours per year).

More information is available on our website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents)

You can find providers offering free early education places and 30 hours free childcare in your area by contacting your local children's centre or on the Hertfordshire childcare directory, [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/childcaredirectory](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/childcaredirectory)

An interactive mapping system showing all early education providers near your address is also available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents)

Contact your local free early education provider, or look on their website, for advice about:

- place availability
- when your child can start
- visits and open days
- how they allocate places
- flexible provision, part-time placements, 30 hours free childcare and additional hours.

## Where can I find a place?

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