

learn play fun



Free early education

for 3 and 4 yr olds



Free Early Education

Three and four year olds are entitled up to 15 hours of free early education for 38 weeks of the year. Children are eligible the school term after their third birthday, (autumn, spring and summer terms).

The entitlement provides a valuable educational opportunity for children, encouraged by a carer to learn through play. They will have fun in a safe and nurturing environment whilst making friends and preparing for school.

Where can children access their free entitlement? The choice is yours:

- A private day nursery
- A pre-school or playgroup
- A children's centre with day care
- With an accredited childminder
- Or a school/academy

*Discuss times with individual settings, some restrictions may apply.

The flexible free entitlement is:

- Flexible to meet the needs of the child and their family
- Available over two to five days each week, within your providers opening hours*

Call the Family Information Service to find out more details and your nearest registered providers, 01724 296629, or visit www.northlincs.gov.uk/ffe.



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How do I claim my child's early education?

- If your child is not already attending a registered provider, you will need to contact your preferred provider to determine if they have a place available.
- If your child is already attending a registered provider, they can offer you the free entitlement.

Your chosen provider will ask you to complete a Parent Agreement Form (PAF). You will need to complete your child's details and sign the form. You must then return the form to your provider along with a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Is there anything else parents need to know?

- The level of flexibility is subject to reasonable parent requirements and your chosen providers ability to meet such needs.
- Funding can be split between two providers if this meets the needs of the family.
- If one of your chosen providers is a school nursery (that does not offer additional paid hours) the 15 hours funding is allocated to the school, any additional hours will need to be paid for in the private and voluntary sector.



- Your child must attend their contracted hours each week or you may lose all or part of your free entitlement.
- You cannot increase or decrease your child's free entitlement during the term. The agreement you complete stating the hours of funding you require lasts for a minimum of one term.
- It is expected that parents will not, except in exceptional circumstances, move providers during the term. If you move provider, a notice period will be honoured with your existing provider before any funding will transfer to your child's new provider.
- Your choice of provider, whether in the private, voluntary or maintained nursery sector, for the entitlement will not affect in any way your admission into a school reception class.
- Further terms and conditions for the entitlement are on the PAF and at www.northlincs.gov.uk/ffe.