

Welcome to
Childcare Funding Facts
from the Family Information Service
Issue 1, June 2017

Due to new childcare funding initiatives, we have decided to replace **Twos News** with our new **Childcare Funding Facts** bulletin.

Our aim is to keep you up to date with all of the changes and equip you with the knowledge that you need when you are speaking to parents. We know that childcare funding can be quite complicated, so if you have any questions, or would like us to come along and talk to a group of parents, or give a brief presentation at one of your team meetings, please let us know.

New Leaflet

We have created a new leaflet called 'Can you save money on your childcare bills?' which gives a brief overview of the different funding options available to parents including:

- NEW - Tax Free childcare for working parents
- Free childcare for two year olds
- The universal entitlement for all three and four year olds (15 hours free childcare)
- NEW – the extended entitlement for working parents of three and four year olds (30 hours free childcare)
- Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Help for Students

The leaflet has been widely distributed across the city however if you would like copies of it, or have received some and would like more, please contact us on 01273 293545.

- You can also view the leaflet online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/childcarefunding
- and on the home page of our Family Services Directory; www.familyinfobrighton.org.uk

Factsheets

For more detail on Tax Free Childcare and the extended entitlement (30 hours free childcare) we have produced factsheets, which you can also find online, as outlined above.

There is also a handy overview table format showing all the new funding and benefit options for parents.

Two Year Olds

Our current take-up of two year old places in Brighton & Hove is 82% of eligible children !

We are currently taking applications from eligible children

- Who are already two –and can start immediately
- or those turning two until the end of August, who can start from September 2017

Parents can apply;

- online (on the city council website) www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/twos
- by paper form (available from their children’s centre or FIS)
- by calling our helpline (01273 293545)

We only need their surname, date of birth and NI number to confirm eligibility in the majority of cases and we can usually give a same day response.

The extended entitlement - 30 hours free childcare

Parents must be working in order to be eligible for the extended entitlement. They can apply online at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

From our factsheet, please note this important point and share with parents;



You must apply on time. If not, your child **will not** be able to take up their extended offer from the term after their third birthday - they will have to wait until the start of the following term. (However, they will still be able to take up their 570 hours a year universal offer.)

HOW can parents check if they are eligible?

The government has set up a new website where parents can enter their details and check if they are eligible.

Visit <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/> to check your eligibility.

The table below shows you when you should apply.

Child’s 3rd birthday falls between	When you need to apply	When your child can take up their extended entitlement
1 Jan to 31 March	By 31 March	The beginning of term on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	By 31 August	The beginning of term on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	By 31 December	The beginning of term on or after 1 January

We also recommend parents use the www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator to work out how much help they may be entitled to

For any providers wanting to register to offer any or all of the Early Years Free Entitlements they can find information, links and downloadable forms on our funding webpage here - [Providing EYFE for 2,3 & 4 year olds](#)

Our Family Service Directory will indicate which providers offer the extended entitlement, alongside the two year old funding and the universal entitlement so that parents can easily find providers that meet their needs
www.familyinfobrighton.org.uk

Tax Free Childcare

Have you registered with HMRC for this? You should have received a letter from HMRC but if not, get in touch with them for more information;

If you're running a business, you'll need your 10-digit Unique Tax Reference (UTR) number to sign up for Tax-Free Childcare. This is the number that HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) gave you when you first told HMRC that you were working for yourself.

You can find your UTR on any HMRC communications, for example, your tax statement or payment reminder, or by logging onto your Personal Tax Account.

If you can't find your UTR number, HMRC can send this number to your address. For more information, call the childcare service helpline on 0300 123 4097.

Summer Fun

The 2017 booklet is out now. View it online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk or contact us while we still have some copies in stock.

Factsheets

You can find these under the [Factsheets](#) section on our directory www.familyinfobrighton.org.uk

- [Welfare Reform and Benefit Changes](#)
- [Family Breakdown](#)
- [Free Early Learning \(3 & 4 year olds\)](#)
- [Family Finance](#)
- [All About Finding Work](#)
- [Young Carers](#)

You can find these in the same place, under Useful Contacts;

- [NSPCC Out Alone guide to keeping children safe](#)
- [Choosing Services Safely](#)
- [New to Brighton & Hove](#)
- [Help and advice for Prisoners and their Families](#)

– please share them with any families whom you think may find it useful.

Key Contacts

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