

Early Years Entitlement

All children in the UK are eligible to receive 15 **universal entitlement** hours of childcare a week, the term after their third birthday, during the school terms only. The government has **extended the entitlement** hours, allowing working parents of three and four year olds to gain an additional 15 hours per week, totalling to 30 **extended hours** per week during the school terms only.

The government also offers **two-year-old entitlement** of 15 funded hours of childcare a week during the school terms only, depending on the family's circumstances and if they meet the correct criteria. If you think your child may be eligible for **two-year-old entitlement**, please contact the Free School Meals team on 01225 394317. You will need to know your National Insurance number.

How will Hopscotch be structuring the early years' entitlement?

The following will apply for all those receiving any entitlement from 2 - 4 years.

As we are open for 50 weeks of the year, we will only be offering the entitlement hours all year round. The **extended entitlement** broken down totals in 22 hours for 50 weeks of the year. Those who do not meet the criteria for the **extended entitlement** will still be eligible for the **universal entitlement** of 11 hours per week for 50 weeks of the year. The **two-year-old entitlement** will also be offered as 11 hours per week for 50 weeks of the year.

The Government entitlement funding pays towards your child's nursery hours; however, this does not include snacks, meals, resources, trips and extracurricular activities; such as Spanish & Rugby Tots, nor the expected level of pay for our nursery practitioners. We therefore ask for these additional costs to be covered by yourselves.

You will be able to use your entitlement hours between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. If you require a 7.30am start, you will be charged for this at the normal rate of £6. Unfortunately, we do not offer term time only contracts and ask all children to attend a minimum of 12 hours a week.

We offer completely free childcare for children eligible for the **universal** and **two-year-old** entitlement of 11 hours a week. These will only be offered as afternoon sessions, between 1pm and 6pm, please note, meal charges may apply. If you require this, please talk to us individually.

Eligibility for the **extended entitlement will be determined by HMRC.**

Please follow the link below to help you discover what you may be entitled to and explain how to access them:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Parents must apply for the **extended entitlement** hours through the governments online Childcare Service **application**, accessed through the link above. Once you have applied and are successful, HMRC will give you a code which you must pass on to Hopscotch. We will then verify this code with the local authority. This needs to be repeated every three months to reapply. It is up to the parents to reapply in order to gain your extended entitlement of 22 hours. If you fail to reapply, your entitlement hours will not be funded and you will be invoiced and liable for the full fees for the following term. Ensuring you gain this code and share it with Hopscotch, is solely your responsibility. If you do not provide the code at least two weeks before the start of term, any hours over the universal entitlement of 11 hours, will be charged at our normal rate and invoiced accordingly for the following term's fees.

All children become eligible for funding at the start of the term after their 2nd / 3rd birthday.

A child born between:	Will be eligible for free entitlement:	Recommended time to apply for extended funding:
1 st April and 31 st August	From the following 1 st September	15 th June to 31 st July
1 st September and 31 st December	From the following 1 st January	15 th October to 30 th November
1 st January and 31 st March	From the following 1 st April	15 th January to 28 th February

Can my child attend more than one provider?

If your child attends another setting, your free entitlement can be split between us. However, it is important you inform us of your child's other setting in order for us to liaise with them and organise the split funding. If it is not split correctly you will be liable to pay the full amount of childcare costs.

What happens if my child switches providers in the middle of a term?

Any transfer of your free entitlement during the term is at the discretion of Hopscotch. We request one month's notice period during which we will keep any funding we have received for a child.

Is there flexibility for children with special educational needs?

Bath and North East Somerset recognises that some children with special educational needs may require additional support during their early education. Please contact the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at the provision your child attends for further information. You may also contact **Family Information Service** for advice on **01225 395343**.