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What is working parent entitlement and how do I apply?

What is it?

- An entitlement for working parents in England to receive up to 1140 hours of childcare per year.
    - In Term-Time only settings this equates to 30 hours per week.
    - In Full-Time settings open 51 weeks per year this equates to 22 hours per week.
- The Entitlement applies to Children from the term after they turn 9 months old until they start school.
- All 3- and 4-year-olds are eligible for 15 universal hours, regardless of work status, notes the GOV.UK blog. Children who are not eligible for the working parent entitlement will be eligible for universal funding (15 hours in a term time setting, 11 hours in a full time setting) for their child from the term after their 3rd birthday

Who is Eligible? (For 30 hours)

- You (and your partner, if applicable) must work and earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum/Living Wage.
- You can be on maternity, paternity, adoption, or sick leave and still qualify.

How to Apply

1. Use the GOV.UK eligibility checker or the Best Start in Life calculator.
2. You'll need your National Insurance number, child's birth certificate number, and details of any government support.
3. Go to the GOV.UK "Apply for free childcare if you're working" page to set up your childcare account and submit your application.
4. If approved, you'll get an 11-digit code to give to Millwood House Day Nursery Ltd
5. Log in to your account every three months to confirm your details are up-to-date.
6. It is recommended to apply for the code as early as possible to secure a place at Millwood House Day Nursery Ltd

Key Deadlines & Start Dates

- You can apply from when your child is 23 weeks old.
- Funding starts the term *after* your child turns 9 months (e.g., if they turn 9 months in February, funding starts in April).

What is Tax-Free Childcare and how do I apply?

Tax-Free Childcare is a UK government scheme that helps working parents with childcare costs. For every £8 you pay into your childcare account, the government adds £2, up to £500 every 3 months per child (or £1,000 if your child is disabled).

How to Set It Up:

1. **Check Eligibility**:
    - You must be working (employed or self-employed) and earning at least the National Minimum Wage for 16 hours a week on average.
    - Your child must be under 12 (or under 17 if disabled).
    - You cannot use Tax-Free Childcare alongside childcare vouchers.

2. **Gather Necessary Information**:
    - Your National Insurance number.
    - Your partner's details (if applicable).
    - Your child's birth certificate or adoption details.

3. **Apply Online**:
    - Visit the GOV.UK website and apply for a childcare account.
    - The application takes about 20 minutes, and you may need to verify your identity.

4. **Set Up Your Account**:
    - Once approved, you will receive login details for your childcare account.
    - Add money to your account, and the government will top it up automatically.

5. **Pay Your Childcare Fees**:
    - Use the funds in your account to pay Millwood House Day Nursery Ltd

6. **Reconfirm Eligibility**:
    - Every 3 months, you will need to log in and confirm your details to continue receiving the government top-up.