

Honeybourne Primary Academy

NURSERY



Free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

Worcestershire County Council provides free early education places (also known as childcare) for all three and four year old children within Worcestershire.

All children are eligible for 15 hours of free early education per week from the term after their 3rd birthday.

Children of working parents/carers may be entitled to an additional 15 hours of free early education per week.

Children who turn three between	You can start receiving your free hours from	If eligible for 30 hours please apply by
1 January and 31 March	April after the child's 3rd birthday	15 January to 28 February
1 April and 31 August	September after the child's 3rd birthday	15 June to 31 July
1 September and 31 December	January after the child's 3rd birthday	15 October to 30 November

What is my child entitled to?

All children are entitled to up to 15 hours of free childcare per week which is a total of 570 hours per year. These 15 hours are known as the 'universal hours'.

Children will continue to be entitled to these universal free hours until either the end of the term in which they become five years of age or until they start in a maintained, academy or free school reception class.

These hours can be used in many different ways such as 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, or less hours per week for more than 38 weeks of the year. Your childcare setting will have more information about what they can provide.

Some children are entitled to an additional 15 hours per week which is known as the 'Additional hours' or '30 Hours Childcare'.

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Honeybourne Primary Academy Nursery can offer the full 15 hours funding per week, term time only (38 weeks) subject to availability.

When can my child have a free place?

Funding starts the term after the child's third birthday.

Children who are born between	Will have a free place from
1 January and 31 March	April
1 April and 31 August	September
1 September and 31 December	January

Are there any restrictions on how I use the hours?

You can use your hours in the following ways:

- a maximum of two childcare providers in one day
- a maximum of 10 hours in one day
- a maximum of 15 hours over one week
- taken between 6am – 8pm any day of the week

You do not have to take up the full 15 hours.

Some children are entitled to an additional 15 hours per week which is known as the "Additional hours" or "30 hours".

Apply for 30 hours of childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 570 'universal' hours of free childcare per year (15 hours a week) However, if eligible, you're entitled to an additional 570 hours of free childcare for the year (additional 15 hours a week, so 30 hours a week in total).

These hours can be used in many different ways such as 30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Honeybourne Primary Academy Nursery can offer the full 30 hours funding per week, term time only (38 weeks) subject to availability.

To be eligible for the additional hours:

- you, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £120 a week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage)
- if you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible.

You can't get the additional hours of free childcare if you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more.

When do the free 30 hours start?

If you apply in advance, you can start using your free hours from the beginning of the term following your child's third birthday. If you apply after the term following your child's third birthday, then you can start using your free hours from the day that you give your '30 hours eligibility code' to Honeybourne Primary Academy Nursery.

How do I apply for a place?

You can apply for 30 hours via the HM Government Childcare Choices website. If you are eligible you will be given a '30 hours eligibility code' to enter on to your Parent Declaration Form. This includes giving your consent for the code and your details to be validated. If you do not give your consent, your code cannot be validated and you cannot take up your additional hours.

What happens if I stop being eligible?

Your child will enter 'the grace period' when you stop meeting the eligibility criteria. Worcestershire County Council will be able to access information about whether or not your child is in the grace period and will let Honeybourne Primary Academy Nursery know. We will then be able to tell you when the grace period will end and when your child will stop receiving their additional 15 hours.

In exceptional circumstances, Worcestershire County Council might extend the grace period and allow you to receive your free hours for longer. This would be to support stability or continuity for a child experiencing difficult circumstances, such as the death of a parent or domestic violence. If this is the case then your Honeybourne Primary Academy Nursery will apply to Worcestershire County Council on your behalf and let you know whether or not your grace period can be extended.

For Further information and details of how to apply please speak to our Nursery Manager, Kate Drew or access www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freechildcare or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

We recommend that you apply in good time, so that you receive your code the term before your child becomes eligible. You can apply up to 16 weeks before your child turns 3.