

# Free Early Years Education



What is my  
child entitled to?

# Family

INFORMATION SERVICE

## What is my child entitled to?

From the term after their third birthday, every child is entitled to 15 hours free at a childcare setting for 38 weeks of the year.

*Please note that not all providers will be able to offer the full 15 hour, 38 week entitlement.*

## When will my child be eligible?

Third birthday between:	Becomes eligible from:
1 April - 31 August	Start of Autumn Term
1 September - 31 December	Start of Spring Term
1 January - 31 March	Start of Summer Term

## Where can my child receive this free entitlement?

There are many childcare settings providing this service within Torbay. You can use a day



nursery, pre-school, school nursery class or an accredited childminder.

All providers receiving funding under the scheme are registered with Torbay Council and are regularly inspected by Ofsted to ensure they meet the required standards. All providers will make their latest Ofsted report available on request or you can view them at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports).

## **Can I use more than one provider?**

Yes, you can split the free 15 hours between a maximum of two providers. For example, you may like your child to attend a school nursery for 5 hours a week and a day nursery for the other 10.

## **How many hours per day can my child claim for free?**

A child can claim a maximum of 10 free hours in one day, 12½ hours over two days, whilst the full 15 free hours can only be used if a child attends 3 or more days at the setting.

The minimum length of session that a child can claim free hours for is 2½ hours.

Although settings are encouraged to provide the free hours in a flexible manner, you will need to take the hours within the sessions your childcare provider offers.

## **How do I register my child on the scheme?**

The first step is to select a suitable childcare provider for your child to attend. For more information on childcare providers in Torbay (including those offering the free sessions) contact Torbay Family Information Service (details overleaf).

Once your child is registered with a childcare provider, they will let you know when your child is eligible for funding.

Every term you will need to complete a Parental Declaration Form on Headcount Day stating how many free education hours your child attends each week.

The childcare provider will then send this information to Torbay Council to receive funding for providing these free hours.

Children must be registered and attending the provision on Headcount Day to enable the setting to receive the necessary funding. For details of the Headcount dates, contact your childcare provider.

## **Do I need to pay my childcare provider for any services I use?**

Your child's first 15 hours of childcare will be free, any hours attended over and above the free entitlement will need to be paid for at the normal rates charged by the provider.

You may also be charged for any additional services you use, such as hot lunches or swimming lessons that are considered over

and above the normal nursery day. However, you should not have to take this additional service in order to attend your free hours.

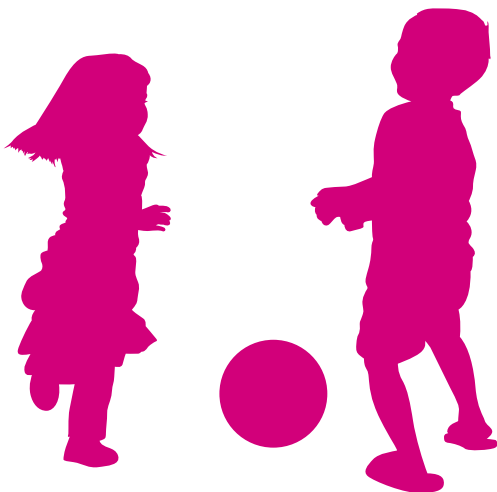
If you would like further information, please contact:

**Torbay Family Information  
Service**

**on 0800 328 5974 or visit  
[www.torbay.gov.uk/fis](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/fis)**

**Useful contact:**

**Ofsted on 0300 123 4234  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)**





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**This leaflet can be made available in other formats. For more information please telephone 0800 328 5974.**