



Poplar Pre-School (CIO)

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Dear Parents

30 hours funding for 3 and 4 year olds from Sept 2017

As you are probably aware, the government is introducing free childcare up to 30 hours for parents who are eligible. The aim for this is to help people who are going to work.

The Criteria is as follows:

- Each parent needs to be earning less than £100,000 per year.
- Each parent needs to earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national living wage, or national minimum wage for those under 25.
- The National living wage is due to increase from April 2017 to £7.50 per hour.
- The National minimum wage for 21-24 year olds will be increasing to £7.05 per hour from April 2017.
- So the criteria is income based not on the number of hours worked.
- The criteria applies to both parents, or a sole parent in a single parent family.
- Self-employed parents and those on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings threshold.

There will be a system online where you will be able to input your details and it will indicate if you are eligible, but this is not yet available (planned for Spring 2017). It will not be something that the pre-school will deal with directly. There will also be other issues, such as changes in circumstances, but this is the basic outline.

The 30 hours can be shared between early years providers, but you would need to think about continuity of care for your child and a maximum of two providers in a single day.

All 3 and 4 year old children will continue to be eligible for 15 hours early years education, as is currently the case, regardless of parents income.

In February, we will be contacting you about your requirements/sessions for September 2017, so please give this some thought and consider your requirements for the whole academic year, as I am concerned that there will be less flexibility of sessions if the take up for 30 hours is high.

Regards

Sheelagh Fuller

Manager