

Early Years Entitlements in Wales from September 2025

If you are planning a nursery or pre-school place for a child in care in a Welsh setting it is important to know that Early Years entitlements in Wales are different to the offers available in England.

Hours on offer can vary from area to area.

1. For some 2 and 3 year olds living in a Flying Start Service area a child can access 5 two and a half hour sessions per week during term time. To find out if a parent/carer is living in a Flying Start area, check with the allocated Health Visitor **or** use the following link to find out the contact details of the local Family Information Service: [Find your local Family Information Service | GOV.WALES](#)

2. From the term after a child's 3rd birthday they will be entitled to a minimum offer of 10 hours Early Education per week with a school nursery, a pre-school or a childminder, during term time. Applications are made to the local authority that the parent/carer lives in and details of the local Family Information Service can be found using the link above. The offer available can vary dependent on area and setting but will be usually be between 12 and 15 hours per week.

3. Foster carers who are in paid employment over and above their Fostering Duties and who meet the criteria set-out by HMRC can apply for up to an additional 20 hours of funded childcare per week (a maximum of 30 is available between both offers and the overall funded entitlement cannot exceed this). **Please remember, the increased hours must meet the needs of the Care Plan for the child.** To check eligibility go to: [Get 30 hours of childcare for 3 and 4 year olds: Apply | GOV.WALES](#) Proof of eligibility will be needed and a list of supporting documents can also be found on the website.

As with the childcare offer in England, applications can be made part way through the term before the child's birthday and cut-offs can vary area to area. Please check deadlines with the relevant Family Information Service.

If you have any further questions, please contact the child's allocated Education Advisor from Cheshire West Virtual School:

For children with an EHCP or on an adoption pathway—Alison Ismail: Alison.ismail@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

For children with a Northwich and Winsford Social Care Team—Nikki Hunt: Nicola.hunt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

For children with a Chester or Ellesmere Port Social Care Team—Niki White: Nicola.white@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk