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- For Early Education Funding queries contact Swindon Borough Council Early Years & Childcare on 01793 463127
- For information on the Early Years Foundation Stage visit

www.education.gov.uk/publications

www.swindon.gov.uk



This information is available on the internet at www.swindon.gov.uk. It can be produced in a range of languages and formats (such as large print, Braille or other accessible formats) by contacting the Customer Services Department.

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Funded Early Education for three and four year olds in Swindon

Guide for Parents

The Free Entitlement



Changes to Early Education Funding

From September 2012 there are important changes to the way you can access funded early education.

Firstly the number of hours you are entitled to is

- 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year.

Also the entitlement is flexible so that you can use your hours in various ways.

- The minimum number of hours you can use in any one day is 2½ hours and the maximum is 10 hours
- You may use your entitlement over more than 38 weeks, but if you do that then you will be entitled to less than 15 hours per week.
- You may use your entitlement between 7a.m. & 7p.m.



However, the way you use your hours will depend upon

- Your choice of provider
- The number of hours the provider is open per day
- The number of weeks the provider is open each year

You may use your hours with a maximum of 2 providers, but you must inform each provider that you are doing this.

You will be asked to sign a Parental Contract, to confirm your child's details and agreement to the hours you will be using with each provider. It is an expectation that your child will remain at that provider for that term and attend regularly. The hours you choose cannot normally be changed during the term.

What do you have to pay for?

If your child attends a provider just for their free entitlement, the provider must not impose any conditions on you using this place e.g. registration fee, uniform or deposit. However, if your chosen hours cover a meal period, this can be part of your entitlement, but you may be charged for the cost of the meal supplied.

What do you need to do?

For full details of how to apply please see our Funded Early Education leaflet or contact the Family Information Service at Swindon Direct.

