

## How can I be sure about quality?

Registered day care providers and schools are inspected regularly by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The Local Authority offers a quality support programme for all providers. You can ask your childcare provider to see a copy of their latest report, or visit [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



## Useful contacts:

### Ofsted

Tel: 0300 123 1231

Email: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

### Tax credit helpline

Tel: 0345 300 3900

[www.hmrc.gov.uk/TAXCREDITS/](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/TAXCREDITS/)

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## How do I claim my free hours?

Visit your local FEYE provider or contact Warrington's Families Information Service for a list of early education providers in your area.

**Telephone: 01925 443322**

**E-mail: [fis@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warrington.gov.uk)**

or go online and visit

**[www.warrington.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/childcare)**

For full information on the Free Early Years Entitlement please contact the FEYE Team via the Families Information Service on **01925 443322**



# 15 hours flexible Free Early Years Entitlement (FEYE)

- Do you have a child aged three or four?
- Would you like your child to have fun and enjoyment when accessing their early years education?



If you answered YES, pick up this leaflet and read on...

Issue Date: November 2012

**Warrington**  
Borough Council

In this leaflet, schools, nurseries, childminders and pre-schools are called 'providers'.

## Did you know that your child is eligible for free pre-school education, regardless of parental income?

### What is the Free Early Years Entitlement?

In 2011 - 2012 Warrington Information & Childcare Team paid out £6.4 million in Free Early Years Entitlement funding so that children could access free early education. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum promotes children's skills, knowledge and understanding across a range of areas including literacy, maths, creativity and physical development. Careful planning ensures children learn through a range of play opportunities.

### 15 hours Free Early Years Entitlement

15 hours per week of Free Early Years Education is available via early years childcare providers across Warrington. This offer is available flexibly within the private, voluntary and maintained sectors. It is essential that you discuss your requirements with your chosen provider(s), as the level of flexibility that is offered will depend on their individual circumstances. If you exceed your free entitlement, you will have to pay for any additional hours that

your child attends. You may be charged for any meals or extra services that your child receives. However, if your free entitlement sessions include lunch times, you should be given the option to provide a packed lunch, if you do not want to purchase a meal. Please ask your provider what the additional costs will be prior to taking up a free place - you should not be required to purchase extra hours or services in order to access the free entitlement.

### Where are free places available?

- All schools with nursery classes (subject to Admissions Policy)
- Sandy Lane Nursery School
- All pre-schools registered both with Ofsted and the Information & Childcare Team to deliver the FEYE offer
- All private day nurseries registered both with Ofsted and the Information & Childcare Team to deliver the FEYE offer
- Accredited Childminders (Part of Warrington's Children Come First Network) registered both with Ofsted and the Information and Childcare Team to deliver the FEYE offer.

**Contact the Families Information Service to help you find an early education provider to meet your needs on 01925 443322**

## What does Free Early Years Entitlement cover?

Up to 15 hours a week free of charge, over a minimum of 38 weeks to a maximum of 570 hours over a year:-

Summer Term - approximately 180 hours

Autumn Term - approximately 210 hours

Spring Term - approximately 180 hours

The following conditions apply:

- 15 hours entitlement over a minimum of two days
- a minimum of 2.5 hours and a maximum of 10 hours can be accessed in any 1 day
- cannot be accessed before 7am or after 7pm
- sessions accessed in no less than half hour blocks
- a maximum of two providers at any one time
- the level of flexibility that is offered will depend on a provider's individual circumstances
- parents can request to 'stretch' their child's FEYE hours over more than the 38 weeks i.e. less hours over more weeks

Providers cannot ask you to pay for the Free Early Years Entitlement hours claimed and then pay back the funding at a later date. The place must be free at the point of delivery.

If your child attends more than 15 hours per week in a term at one or more settings you will be expected to pay for any additional hours. Your billing should clearly identify which hours are your FEYE and which hours you are paying for.



## Is your child eligible?

Free Early Years Entitlement is payable for all three and four year old children, regardless of parental income from the term after the child's third birthday.

### Term start dates

Spring Term	1 January
Summer Term	1 April
Autumn term	1 September

For example, if your child is three on 17 September 2012 they will be entitled to Free Early Years Entitlement from 1 January 2013

Similarly if your child's third birthday is on 31 August 2013, they will be eligible from 1 September 2013.