

30 Hour Entitlement – Guidance on Grace Periods

What is the Grace Period?

Children attending a 30 hour place but whose 30 hour eligibility code has expired will continue to receive funding for a set period. This is known as the “grace period”.

Key Points

A child enters the ‘Grace Period’ if the parents cannot / do not renew their 30 hour eligibility code.

The child is no longer considered eligible but will continue receiving the 30 hours funding until the ‘grace period end date’.

Parents **must** renew their code by **31st December 2020** or they will not be funded for Spring Term 2021.

Parents can still receive the Universal 15 hours of funding after their ‘grace period’ ends.

Parents are advised to apply / revalidate in advance of the 31st December 2020, as the application / renewal process can take a number of weeks.

Parents apply for and renew their 30 hour eligibility code using the Childcare Choices website (<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>).

If parents experience any issues renewing their code they should immediately contact the Childcare Choices helpline on tel. 0300 1234 097.

Providers can use the ‘30Hr dashboard section’ of the North Tyneside’s Early Years Portal to check if any children have entered their ‘grace period’.

Q. How do providers know if a child has entered their grace period or will enter their grace period before 31st December 2020?

A. Providers must check the ‘30hr dashboard’ section of the North Tyneside Early Years Portal to check the ‘grace period end date’.

Q. Who informs parents that they have entered their ‘grace period’?

A. It is the responsibility of the childcare provider providing ‘extended 15 hour entitlement’ funded hours.

Q. How should providers inform parents whose grace period will end on 31st December 2020?

Providers must inform the parent in writing (i.e. personal email / letter etc). Providers must be able to demonstrate that a parent received notification that placement would end. Providers must inform them that they will not receive funding after 31st December 2020, unless they have a code with an eligibility start date of 31st December 2020 or earlier.

What should providers tell parents who have entered their 'grace period'?

We recommend that parents of children already accessing the extended hours at your setting are informed that:

- their child has entered their grace period;
- the date that the funding for their extended 15 hours funding will end;
- they must reconfirm their eligibility using their Childcare Choices account before the end of 31st December 2020, otherwise they will not be eligible for funding for spring term 2021;
- **parents should renew their code using their Childcare Choices online account or call the Childcare Choices helpline on tel. 0345 1234 097 as soon as possible; and**
- parents will have to pay for any additional hours / or lose their additional 15 hours (where applicable).

How do parents re-confirm their eligibility?

They need to login to their Childcare Choices account (link <https://www.gov.uk/childcareaccount>).

A parent says they have already renewed their code, how can I check?

Go onto the 30Hr dashboard and click on the 'status update' link against the child's name.

What happens if parents renew their code after 31st December 2020?

The funding for the extended 15 hours (of the 30 hour entitlement) will not be available for spring term 2021.