



Management information on the number of 30 hours free childcare codes issued and validated for the autumn term

As of the 6th November the following number of 30 hours eligibility codes had been issued by the Childcare Service and validated by Local Authorities and providers:

Eligibility codes issued by 31st August	216,384
Codes validated by 6th November	200,372
Codes validated as a percentage of codes issued	93%

Source: Department for Education's Eligibility Checking System

Background

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 15 hours a week of free early education. From September 2017 this entitlement was extended to 30 hours free childcare for families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year.

Parents apply and have their eligibility checked for 30 hours free childcare via the Childcare Service. If a parent is found to be eligible, they will be given a 30 hours eligibility code which they take to their chosen childcare provider. Childcare providers or local authorities will then validate these codes via the Eligibility Checking System. A parent must have generated a code and this code must be validated to enable a child to access the offer in the autumn term.

An [ad-hoc statistical notice](#) was published on 8th September, providing initial information on the the number of eligibility codes issued to parents for the autumn term by 31st August and the number and percentage that had been validated by local authorities and providers by 5th September. An update on these figures was provided in the management information release published on 12th October.

Purpose of this release

Local authorities and providers are able to continue checking codes throughout the term and this management information release provides updated figures on the number and percentage checked as of 6th November.

Following data cleansing, revised estimates on the number of codes issued and validated for the autumn term will be published in December.

Notes

- 1) The figures excludes all eligibility codes issued after 31st August, the deadline for applying for a 30 hours place for the autumn term. Codes issued after this date are excluded even if the parents applied by 31st August and further eligibility checks were required, although these children would be entitled to a 30 hours place in the autumn term.
- 2) Local Authorities and providers can continue to validate codes for autumn term childcare places during the term, providing the code was applied for by 31st August. Therefore the number and percentage of codes validated will increase during the term.
- 3) These figures are not directly comparable to figures released by HMRC referring to the Childcare Service due to a number of definitional differences:
 - a. These figures refer to the number of children rather than families, some families may have 2 or more children eligible for the additional 15 hours.
 - b. These figures only include children issued a 30 hours code aged 3 at 31st August.
 - c. These figures include codes in their 30 hours grace period – and those who fall under the ‘guaranteed first term’ policy.
 - d. These figures include temporary codes which were generated by a manual process, not by the digital service. Parents in receipt of a temporary code will need to reapply via the digital service at a later date to receive a permanent code. Both the temporary and permanent codes are included in these figures.
- 4) This table excludes 6,904 codes issued and 3,002 codes validated for children aged 4 at 31st August as it is likely these children will be in reception and therefore ineligible for 30 hours free childcare. However some of these children may defer their entry into reception and continue to be eligible for the additional 15 hours offer – these children are not captured in the table above.