

[View this email in your browser](#)



April 2020

Welcome

Hi All ,

I hope you are all keeping well.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued hard work and determination during this difficult time. We know this is a very challenging time for all of you in the Early Years sector and we want to reassure you that we are monitoring and raising the concerns that are being shared on a regular basis.

The Early Years team are currently reviewing how else we can support you as providers, we are keen to hear your views and will be sending out a survey to you all shortly to gather and capture views. We are in the process of setting up regular network sessions so that you have the opportunity to share and engage with other providers across Newham and to utilise this time to share ideas and talk through challenges and solutions. We will also be using these sessions to start to discuss matters and guidance for when the current restrictions relax and children begin to access provision again.

During this period we are keen to provide additional remote learning

opportunities for Early Years professionals across Newham and further information on this will be provided shortly along with the updated training offer.

We will continue to provide you with updated guidance and information as regularly as possible. If there is anything specific you would like to share with me during this time please contact me on Kirsty.reed@newham.gov.uk

Best Wishes

Kirsty

Kirsty Reed - Strategic Manager Early Years



HM Government



DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE
for education related queries: anyone working in early years through to universities, plus parents
0800 046 8687
8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)
DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk



HM Government





CATCH IT. BIN IT. KILL IT.

For more information, visit: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Children's Centres

Children's Centres in Newham remain open and the team continue to provide advice, guidance and support to families in the local area.

Newham's Children's Centres offer a range of services to help give children (birth-5 years) the best start in life. More information on the services that are currently being provided by the Best Start in Life (BSiL) Children's Centres is available [here](#).

If you are a professional who would like to refer a family for additional support during this time, please use the "Early Help and Family Support Referral" link.

Key workers

I am sure everyone joins the Nation in our appreciation of NHS staff and key workers in the fight against Covid 19.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you continuing to offer your service to the families of key workers and vulnerable children. Without your support, they would be unable to fulfil their role with peace of mind.

Finally, many thanks to all of you keeping in touch with your families and offering support, and ideas of activities to do at home.

Early years and childcare remains a vital service for families and children in Newham, and your support continues to make a difference.

Keep up the good work everyone!

[>CLICK HERE< to view letter from Secretary of State for Education - 23 April 2020](#)

Business Support

If you are a Newham early years provider and would like support in identifying which of the schemes detailed below are available to you or would like a sounding board to talk through your business situation and options you can e mail Kirsty.Reed@newham.gov.uk, leaving your contact details.

Department for Education

Comprehensive details of the Government business support schemes introduced to help mitigate the impact of coronavirus. Relevant to both nurseries and childminders (who should refer to the section on self-employed). This includes details of the new Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan scheme aimed at small and medium sized businesses, as announced by the Chancellor on 27 April.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Newham Council

Details of Government schemes, Newham specific support available and details of how the local authority is administering nursery business rates relief (available to eligible nurseries on the early years register) and small business grants fund (available to settings eligible for small business rates relief as at 11 March 2020)

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-businesses-support/1>

National Day Nurseries Association

Information on finance and business support for Nurseries

https://www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/Knowledge_Hub/Coronavirus_for_nurseries_early_years.aspx

Early Learning Alliance

Information for early years providers

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/business-advice-common-questions>

PACEY

Support and guidance for childminders

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/spotlight-on/coronavirus/sources-of-support-coronavirus/>

Funding update

Summer advance payment processed is based on number of children in your provision in the spring term, age eligible for the summer term and paid at 100% without deprivation or EYPP supplements. These additional supplements will be calculated at head count. Please follow the processes of updating the child attendances on the portal and adding new children who were to start in the summer term. **The deadline for the data to be updated is Friday 1 May 2020.**

Early Year Agreements 2020-2021

Final reminder for providers who have the Early Years Agreement documents missing and have received reminders - **Please upload the missing documents by Friday 1 May 2020.**

Parent Survey

Every year the Local Authority conducts a childcare survey to help us find out about childcare needs in the borough so that we can plan services that will work for families.

This year, due to the COVID-19 situation, we have suspended the survey until further notice.

Early Start Nutrition

The Early Start Nutrition team continue to offer a full range of online services. You can contact the team via [email](#). You can read the full [Early Start COVID-19 statement](#) on the website.

Online Nutrition Training

The team have a range of [online training modules](#) which you and your team can continue to access 24/7.

Online Early Start Nutrition Award

Have you signed up to our [Early Start Nutrition Award Bronze, Silver or Gold](#)? Did you know you can download all the relevant documents to complete the awards from your online account? On completion of the documents you can email it to the [team](#) along with your supporting evidence, menus and food policy. [Contact](#) the team today if you would like any support to start or complete your Early Start Nutrition Award. The team are happy to review your Menus and Food Policy to support you in completing them in line with national guidelines.

Hungry Little Minds



Visit the [website](#) for ideas for fun activities for 0-5's. This may be particularly useful for parents during lockdown period.

Hungry Little Minds is the Department for Education campaign that encourages parents and carers to adopt positive activities and behaviours to boost children's communication, language and literacy development.

The campaign, which launched last summer, aims to help parents understand that they have a massive impact on their child's learning. Reading, playing and chatting with them are simple things they can do to help them develop, even when they are too young to say much back.

Parents can access tips and activities from <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/> and also search for activities in their area using a new postcode finder service.

Providers are encouraged to support the campaign, share content on social media and link to the campaign website from their sites, making it easier for parents to get the latest advice.

30 hours entitlement



Age
3-4

30 hours

Free childcare
for 3-4 year olds

Summer term reminder

Parents who wish to access a 30 hours place from the summer term must have a code issued to them dated 31 March or earlier. Providers should validate 30 hours codes as soon as parents provide them. Please do not confirm a place for the child until you have validated the code and checked the start date of the code. Please remember that funding begins the term after the start date of the code which is shown on the provider portal.

If you are unsure about a 30 hours code, please email

30hourschildcare@newham.gov.uk

30 hours reconfirmation during lockdown

Nothing has changed!

Parents who need to reconfirm their 30 hours code should still be doing so during the period of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The 30 hours process remains the same during this time. Parents are required to reconfirm eligibility every 3 months. The reconfirmation window is open for parents 4 weeks before their code is due to expire. Parents will receive email reminders from GOV.UK to reconfirm. Reconfirmation should be done before the code end date and can be done simply by logging into the childcare account and clicking the 'reconfirmation' button.

Parents can check their code expiry date by logging into their childcare account.

If parents find themselves in a different financial situation due to COVID-19, and feel they are unable to reconfirm eligibility they should contact the HMRC Childcare Service on 0300 1234 097 to discuss their individual circumstances and get advice.

Providers should be aware that a higher number of parents may be falling out of eligibility due to change in financial circumstances, so it is very important to check 30 hours codes regularly to ensure they are still valid for funding.

30 hours reminders

More reminders...

- Codes must be validated BEFORE providers confirm a 30 hours place to parents. Please do not allow a child to start without validating the code on the portal first.
- A code start date in the current term means the child can access 30 hours from next term.
- **START DATE:** this is the date when the parent was issued the 30 hours code (this is not the date on which the child can take up a 30 hours place). **30 hours funding will start the term after the code start date.**
- **END DATE:** This is the parent's 'deadline' for reconfirming and the date their code becomes invalid if they do not reconfirm or are found to be ineligible. **Parent must reconfirm before the end date.** Not doing so will cause a break in the continuity of the code. Reconfirming after the end date will mean the code is treated as a new code even though the actual code remains the same. Reconfirming late could affect start dates for the child and could affect funding.
- Parents will receive reconfirmation reminders directly from HMRC. There is a four week window for parents to reconfirm, starting four weeks before the end date.
- **GRACE DATE:** If a parent falls out of eligibility e.g. if they do not reconfirm on time, the child can retain their 30 hours place until the grace date. The provider will be funded for 30 hours until the grace date.
- Children are only eligible for 30 hours from the term after they turn three (even though parents can actually apply and receive a code from when the child is only 2½ years old). If parents apply early and give you a code, please ensure that the child is date of birth eligible before allowing the child to start. You will not be funded for children accepted who are not age eligible.



Provider Portal Training

Please send in your training request to provider.portal@newham.gov.uk

Stay at home
Protect the NHS
Save lives

Follow government guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



> [CLICK HERE to view Provider Guidance - 30 hours](#)

Contacting us

Best Start in Life Team

For general enquiries: FIS@newham.gov.uk

For training enquiries: eschildcaretraining@newham.gov.uk

For funding enquiries: EDU-NurseryGrant3-4@newham.gov.uk

For 2 year old enquiries: twoyearold.childcare@newham.gov.uk

For 30 hours enquiries: 30hourschildcare@newham.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 3373 0980

If your call is not answered, please leave a voicemail which will be picked up by the team.

Handy Hints

Batch checks for 30 hours codes

Good practice tip!

To keep your 30 hours code status' up to date on the portal, run a batch check. This will update start dates/end dates/grace dates if parents have reconfirmed since you last validated or ran a check on the code. If dates do not update, then you may need to check dates and alert parents to reconfirm if necessary.

How to run a batch check

Located under the termly census tab on the portal, the batch check can be found as you scroll to the bottom of the page to ECS Batches. Click on the blue 'batch check' button to the right of the screen to run the check. The check may take a couple of hours to complete so you can start it and come back to it later. When complete, it will have updated all your 30 hours records in one go. No need to do individual re-checks on individual children. Do this on a regular basis (each start of term and each half term is recommended) to keep your codes updated with the latest dates.

Best Start in Life Team

Contact Us:

1st Floor East Wing, Newham Dockside

1000 Dockside Road, London E16 2QU

T: 020 3373 0980

Copyright © 2018 London Borough of Newham, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

twoyearold.childcare@newham.gov.uk / 30hourschildcare@newham.gov.uk

