

[View this email in your browser](#)



July 2019

Welcome

As we come to the end of term and also the end of another academic year we would like to say a big thank you to all of Newham's early years providers and early years colleagues across the borough. Thank you for your continued hard work and commitment ensuring that our youngest children get the best start in life.

The Department for Education have launched several campaigns around early education. There is the **30 hours campaign** which highlights the benefits of the entitlement for working parents. **Hungry Little Minds** has also been launched which is a new three-year campaign to encourage parents to engage in activities that support their child's early learning and help set them up for school and beyond. And there is also the Mayor of London's campaign to promote the **two year old entitlement**. Read on for the latest news about these and how you can help put the word out.

Have a great summer! There will be no newsletter in August but we will return in September.

Hungry Little Minds

Hungry Little Minds is the new 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 three-year campaign, which launched with social media and online adverts in July, 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.



Parent Champions

The Newham Show - Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July was an opportunity for us to show case some of our parent champions and for them to meet local parents to share information. They spoke to parents from a wide

range of ethnic communities. We received really good feedback about the parent champions programme. In future, we would like to host events with the help of our parent champions. We'll keep you updated on this.

Parent Champions are parent volunteers who spend a few hours a week linking with other local parents to share information about childcare, local services and the benefits to their child of taking up their free early education place. They can share personal experiences about their own children and early education. Some of our Parent Champions speak community languages and therefore are helping us to reach out to parents from diverse ethnic groups - overcoming cultural and language barriers.

Our Early Education Practitioners (EEPs) who are based in our Children's Centres are helping with the programme by providing training to our Parent Champions. We hope that this peer to peer outreach initiative will encourage parents to take up the free early education entitlements which are on offer.

Becoming a parent champion is a great volunteering opportunity for our local parents who wish to gain skills and experience for themselves and also to being a source of information, support and guidance for other parents. We would love to take on more Parent Champions to help in our aim to reach as many communities as possible across the borough. If you know of any parents who would relish this volunteering role, please get in touch!

For more information on this programme or if you have any parents that would like to be parent champions, please call Sarah Oparaku (Children's Commissioning Support Officer) on 0203 373 6570. Email -

sarah.oparaku@newham.gov.uk

**DfE consultation launched on early years
childcare fees**

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a public consultation seeking views on a proposed increase to the application fee and the annual fee paid to Ofsted by childcare providers on the Early Years Register, with a view to changes coming into force from April 2020.

The DfE is also seeking views on the principles that should underpin a revised Early Years Register fee model to be introduced from April 2021.

The consultation is available [here](#) and will run for 12 weeks from 18 July to 9 October 2019.

If, for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a copy of the form from the [Gov.UK/DfE Consultations](#) website and email it to EarlyYearsFees.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk, or post it to:

Early Years Fees Consultation, Early Years and Schools Group
Department for Education, 2nd Floor, Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street,
London, SW1P 3BT

If you have an enquiry related to the policy content of the consultation, you can contact the department by email at:

EarlyYearsFees.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk.

Newham Families website

www.families.newham.gov.uk

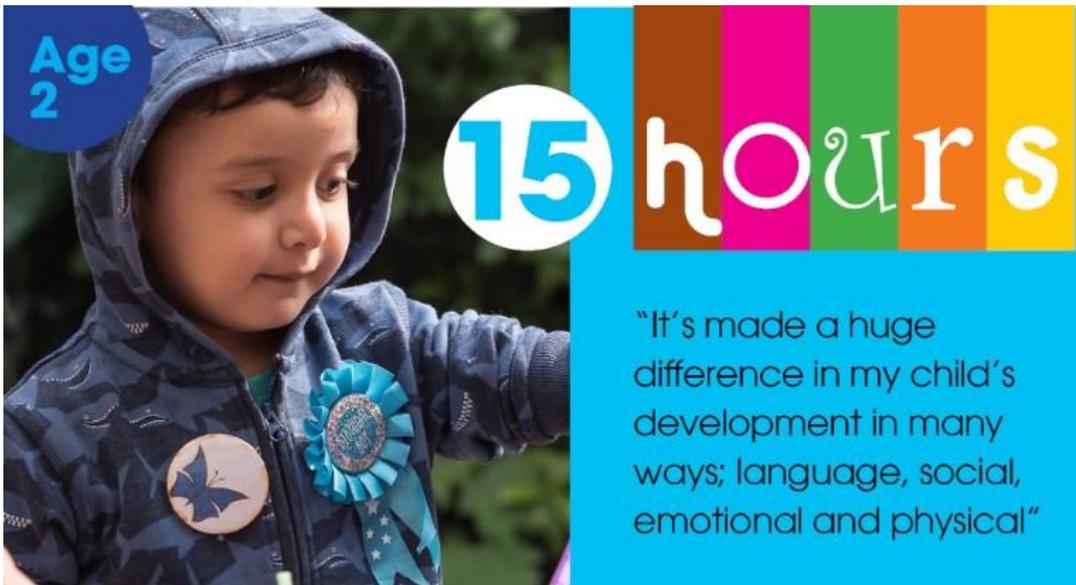
Just a reminder that the new website for the Newham Family Information Service and Newham's Local Offer is 'live'.

This is a new website for families to access a wealth of information about children's services in Newham including the SEND Local Offer and Early Years services.

The website includes a directory holding information about all childcare and early education providers in Newham. **The accuracy of the information held on our directory depends on you!** If you are a provider who uses the provider portal, you will need to ensure that your home page is as complete as possible because all information for the directory is automatically uploaded from your portal home page. This not only includes contact details, vacancy details and operating hours but also what funded options you are offering and Ofsted information.

Please click on the link www.families.newham.gov.uk and have a look around. If you have any feedback about the website, please email local.offer@newham.gov.uk

2 year old entitlement



Age 2

15 hours

"It's made a huge difference in my child's development in many ways; language, social, emotional and physical"



Mayor of London's Early Years Campaign

You may have seen the social media campaign on Facebook or Instagram or seen the balloon postcards and posters. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the two year old entitlement and how it benefits children. It aims to encourage families to help their two-year-olds play, learn and make friends through early education.

Families can find out more through the london.gov.uk [website](#), where they can also be directed to apply for a place via their local authority.

If you can help spread the word about free early education for two-year-olds, download the digital pack. It contains messaging and images that you can share on your own social media.

This year has seen a drive to increase take-up of the two year old funded places so that as many children as possible are benefitting from an early education.

The introduction of the Golden Ticket, collaborative working with the GLA funded Early Years Hub, the London Mayor's Early Years Campaign and our growing number of Parent Champions are just some of the ways in which we have been promoting the offer.

We would like to thank our team of Early Education Practitioners based in our Children's Centres who are doing excellent outreach work to promote all the funded entitlements on offer to families across the borough.

3 ways to register

A reminder to all providers that there are **three ways** in which parents can claim a 15 hours place. Please take particular note of what needs to be recorded on the provider portal.

1. **Eligibility Certificate** obtained via an [online eligibility check](#) on the Newham Council website. Provider to keep eligibility certificate for records. Record the certificate reference number in the comments section on the portal.
2. **Golden Ticket** – If a parent receives a Golden Ticket letter they register their unique ticket number and details at www.newham.gov.uk/goldenticket - no further eligibility check required. Provider to keep registration certificate for records. Record the certificate reference number in the comments section on the portal.
3. **Manual Approval** – a letter issued directly by the Best Start in Life Team when a child qualifies in their own right, in special circumstances or when a parent has provided evidence of eligibility. Provider to keep letter for records. Record the letter reference in the comments section on the portal.

[>CLICK HERE to view Provider Guidance: 15 hours for two year olds](#)

30 hours entitlement



Age
3-4

30 hours

Free childcare
for 3-4 year olds



Last chance to apply
for your 30 hours code
for September.

childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare
Choices


HM Government

Handy contact details

Childcare Choices helpline: 0300 1234 097

Website: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Submitting a complaint: www.gov.uk/complain-about-hmrc

30 hours team at Newham: 020 3373 0980 /

30hourschildcare@newham.gov.uk



Come on board!

Thinking about offering funded places? Please get in touch and we can support you through the process of signing up!

Tel: 020 3373 0980

Portal Training

If you require training or support, please email your request to:

provider.portal@newham.gov.uk



Entering 30 hours codes on the portal - Avoid creating duplicates!

What to do

A 30 hours code which has successfully validated should only really be added to the provider portal once. After this, the code will be automatically updated with LA batch checks or with provider checks.

Validate a code on the portal when parents provide you with a code. This will involve adding guardian eligibility details on the provider portal and creating and checking the code.

A successful validation will be indicated when a start date, end date and grace date automatically appear after you create and check the code.

If dates do not appear, you may have entered information incorrectly. Correct

it if the fields allow you to and then click on create and check again. If the system still does not validate, check that all data on the portal is correctly entered. If it is still not validating, please give the 30 hours team a call on 020 3373 0980 who will assist.

N.B. In the case of twins, each child will have their own separate code. Providers should not be using the same 30 hours code for both children.

What not to do

Please do not keep adding guardian eligibility details multiple times and creating and checking codes repeatedly. Doing this creates duplicate children and duplicate guardians on the portal. These have to be manually checked at our end and individually deleted. If any are missed and duplicates remain, there may be funding errors e.g. you may get overpaid. When records are reconciled, any overpaid funds will have to be recovered by the LA. This can be a tricky situation for all involved so please help us to avoid it!

When a code must be validated again

A 30 hours code which has expired past both its end date and grace end date will need to be validated again once the parent has reapplied. This is because, the code will be treated as a new code. Although the actual code remains the same, it loses its continuity if the parent falls out of eligibility. The parent must contact Childcare Choices to reapply. The code is reactivated but is treated as a brand new application. In this instance, the code must be entered into the portal together with guardian details and validated again. Please note, the previous original validation will disappear from the portal.

Batch checks and checking reconfirmations

There is no need to repeatedly enter guardian details and validate codes when you simply want to check whether parents have reconfirmed.

The LA run audits at the start of each term and again mid term. The audit is a batch check which checks **ALL** 30 hours codes on the portal and **updates**

them automatically. This means if codes have been reconfirmed by parents, the code will be updated with the new dates. The LA audits are run 10 times over the year. They will almost certainly capture any codes which are at risk of expiring and/or falling out of eligibility. Providers are notified if they have any children with codes where grace dates are imminent and where parents need to be reminded to take action.

If you wish to know the current status of all your 30 hours codes, you may run a batch check yourself. It is not necessary to do but if you need to know the most current status you can do it.

Running 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. Click on the edit icon on the left to open up the results of the batch check. Click on the export icon to view it in an excel spreadsheet if you so wish.

And finally...

...if you are having trouble with a code or are unsure of its status, please call 020 3373 0980 and ask for the 30 hours team for assistance. We are here to help!

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

DfE 30 hours campaign

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched a campaign to promote and raise awareness of the benefits that using 30 hours free childcare can have for working families. The campaign aims to illustrate how 30 hours free childcare entitlements has supported and benefited disadvantaged families, including parents of children with SEND. The campaign includes [six case study videos](#) of parents who have taken up the 30 hours offer.

Please feel free to share these videos at any open days or parent meetings which you may have.

There is also a short [“how-to” animation](#) to support families applying for 30 Hours and Tax-Free Childcare online. This may also be useful to share with parents. You can add the link to newsletters or emails that you may send out.

Universal 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds



Please encourage parents to take up the 15 hours universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds. This is an entitlement without any eligibility criteria so all 3 and 4 year olds should be benefitting. Please flag up to parents who may not know about the scheme.

> [CLICK HERE to view the NEWHAM MAG Issue 411 - page 11 \(an editorial on the universal offer\)](#)

Tax Free Childcare

If parents are taking up Tax Free Childcare, they will want their childcare provider to be a registered provider. **Providers need to sign up to Tax Free Childcare to receive payments from parents.** Help parents use their tax free childcare by signing up!

Providers need to register for Tax Free Childcare at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sign-up-to-tax-free-childcare-if-youre-a-childcare-provider>

Handy Hints

Handy hints:

New codes

If you have children new to your setting starting 30 hours in September, validate the code as soon as you are given it. Create the child under termly census, selecting AUT19 from the term code drop down box. Validate the code. Check the start date of the code. **The child can only start in September if the code has a start date of 31 Aug or before.**

30 hours code 'not found'

Please check: DOB of child recorded on child's record – is it correct?, DOB of guardian, NI number, the actual code – are these correct?. The Eligibility Checking Service matches information on the portal with information held by HMRC - any discrepancy in data will result in a 'not found' outcome.

All correct? Still 'not found'? – did the parent re-confirm eligibility? Yes? Still not showing? Please give us a call and we will try to assist!

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