Working Families Entitlement
30 hours childcare funding for 9-month-olds to four years old – things to remember! https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/

Information for parents:

- Apply for the funding via the Best Start in Life Parent Hub https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education, in the term of your child's 9 month old anniversary (see table below as termly deadlines apply). You can apply before this, but we have found that parents have missed their ***reconfirmation date** (typically every three months) when applying very early, resulting in their code expiring before the child takes up the place.
- Take your 30 hours 11-digit code, national insurance number and child's date of birth, to your childcare provider as soon as you receive it so that this can be validated. This is important as it is a reminder to you and your childcare provider as to when you will need to go back into your online childcare account to reconfirm your details.
- You will need to log back into your online account every three months to reconfirm your details. If your details have not changed, you only need to tick a box to confirm that your details are the same. If you claim Tax–Free Childcare, please check that both areas are up to date.
- Validity periods **(*reconfirmation dates)** will typically be three months. In certain circumstances, the length may vary. If a sibling has previously had the funding, HMRC may shorten the validity period so that it aligns with the older sibling's dates.
- **Set a reminder** on your mobile phone/device calendar to reconfirm your 30 hours code – you can reconfirm up to four weeks before. If you miss this date, you are at risk of losing the funding.
- You should receive two reminders to reconfirm your details, either by email or text message - four weeks and two weeks before the deadline date that you will be given on application (**check your spam / junk folders**). It is your responsibility to check the date that you need to reconfirm - make sure that you do this before the deadline.
- **Grace period** - children cannot take up or transfer a place whilst in their **grace period** – if you are unsure what this is, please speak Bolton Families Information Tel: 01204 332170.
- Parents are advised to contact HMRC on **0300 123 4097** if they have any problems creating a gateway account, applying for the funding, or have any questions about the online application process.
- Information about funded childcare can be found on the Bolton Council website – www.bolton.gov.uk/fundedchildcare.

If child's 9 months anniversary falls between	Child becomes eligible for funded place
1st January – 31st March * think about completing application around mid-January (valid code/application ***DEADLINE*** 31st March)	**Summer Term** In the April after their 9 months anniversary
1st April – 31st August * think about completing application around mid-June (valid code/application ***DEADLINE*** 31st August)	**Autumn Term** In the September after their 9 months anniversary
1st September – 31st December * think about completing application around mid-October (valid code/application ***DEADLINE*** 31st December)	**Spring Term** In the January after their 9 months anniversary

❖ the application times are to ensure that if eligibility is confirmed, your 11-digit code should take you into the next term, ensuring that your child can access their 30 hours place the term after their eligible birthday/after application.