

Will I have to pay?

No. The first 15 hours early education you access a week are completely free. If you would like your child to attend for longer you will need to ask the private setting how much more you will have to pay. Some settings may charge for additional things like hot meals or music sessions. You do not have to take up or pay for these additional things in order to access your free place.

How can I find an early education place for my child?

You can contact Solihull Family Information Service for more information and a list of settings in your area that offer free places. You will then need to check that the setting you have chosen has a place available and what they can offer you.

For more information and to discuss your options please contact:

Solihull Family Information Service

Telephone: 0800 389 8667

Text Message: 07740 046 045

Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Website www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

**Solihull Family
Information Service**



Free early education for three and four year olds



All three and four year olds are entitled to free early education.
This leaflet explains what your child is entitled to.

Where can my child have a free place?

Free places are available the term after your child's third birthday at private:

- Pre-schools or playgroups
- Day nurseries
- Childminders
- Independent nursery schools

Free places are available the **September** after your child's third birthday in:

- Nursery units in infant and primary schools

We refer to these as "settings" and they must be registered with the Council in order to offer a free place.

When can my child have a free place?

Your child is entitled to free early education from the term after their third birthday. You can access a free early education place at a private setting as soon as they are eligible and you can access a place at a nursery unit in a school from the September after their third birthday. You can apply for a school nursery place from the September after your child's second birthday.

You can find more information on the website

www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions

A child who is three between:	Can have a free place at a private setting:
1 April and 31 August	from the following September
1 Sept and 31 Dec	from the following January
1 Jan and 31 March	from the following April

Your child will have a place for a maximum of six terms or until your child starts full time education (reception class in an infant or primary school).

What is my child entitled to?

Your child is entitled to early education up to 15 hours a week for a total of 570 hours per year completely free of charge. This entitlement is split into a maximum number of hours available per term determined by the local authority.

Flexible entitlement:

If your child attends for less than the maximum of 15 hours per week at a private setting your entitlement may be taken as fewer hours per week over more weeks including during school holidays.

Can the free hours be split between different settings?

The free hours can be split between two settings but you can only have the maximum number of hours per week and term in total. If your child is attending more than one private setting please let both settings know so that your free place can be split accordingly. Once an offer, of 15 hours per week, has been accepted at a School Nursery / Reception for the start of term, then no Early Education Funding may be claimed at any other Private, Voluntary or Independent provider for that term.

