

The Childcare Offer for Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Early Implementation of the Childcare Offer Q&A's for providers

What is the childcare offer? The new childcare offer will provide working parents with 30 hours of early education and childcare for 3 and 4 year olds, for up to 48 weeks per year. The offer will build on children's existing early education entitlement during term time, and provide 30 hours of childcare for 9 weeks of the holidays.

What does it mean for me as a provider? Providing you are registered with CSSIW (or the equivalent in England), you could receive funding from a pilot local authority for eligible 3 and 4 year olds accessing the offer in your setting.

Where are the pilot areas? There are pilot areas in Anglesey, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Swansea. More information on specific areas is available on the local authority websites.

Do I need to be based in a pilot area to be involved in the early implementation of the offer? No. Parents need to be eligible and live in a pilot area to access the offer. However the childcare element of the offer can be delivered by any registered childcare setting, regardless of location.

Do I need to deliver the Foundation Phase to deliver the childcare element of the offer? No. Some children will continue to access early education in maintained settings. Childcare providers do not need to deliver both the early education and childcare elements of the offer.

Do I need to be able to deliver the offer for 48 weeks per year to take part? No. Parents can access the offer through different providers that best suit their circumstance. Providers who only offer term-time provision, or provision only the in school holidays can still deliver the offer.

How much will I get paid? All providers will receive a rate of £4.50 per hour for children receiving the childcare element of the offer.

Can I charge parents a top-up rate? No. You cannot charge hourly top-up rates if you'd normally charge more than £4.50 per hour.

Can I charge for food and additional activities? Yes. If necessary, you can charge parents for additional elements such as food, transport and off-site activities which incur a cost. The Welsh Government guidelines in respect of setting additional fees under the offer for a full day care session (approximately 10 hours) are that parents should not be charged more than £7.50 per day (this would include three meals at £2 per meal and 2 snacks at a charge of 75p per snack). For a half day session (approximately 5.5 hours) parents should not be charged more than £4.75 (two meals at £2 per meal plus a snack at a charge of 75p per snack). For sessional care where a meal is not provided but children receive a snack, guidelines are that parents should not be charged more than 75p per day for snack provision.

How will I get paid? You should claim funding for the hours a child has registered with you under the offer from your local authority