

February 2018

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HMRC now issuing temporary codes

As an additional measure to ensure that parents receive their codes in advance of the 31 March deadline, HMRC's childcare service have begun to offer temporary codes to parents who have experienced technical problems from Thursday 1 March.

Please encourage parents, who are having difficulties completing their application or reconfirmation online, to contact the helpline on 0300 123 4097, who will check eligibility and provide them with a temporary code if they qualify for 30 hours.

These codes need to be validated via the Eligibility Checker on the provider portal in the same way as standard codes. The temporary codes begin with '11' as opposed to '500'.

Managing the summer term

- The Department for Education has been encouraging parents to apply in early to ensure that they are issued a code in time for the summer term. Parents will need to have a code issued to them by 31 March to be able to take up the extended 15 hours from April. This means that the eligibility code must be valid and have a start date of 31 March or earlier.
- Some parents will need to provide additional evidence to HMRC that they are eligible so it is essential that they apply in good time. In addition, parents who already have a code need to reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months to ensure they continue to be eligible.
- For a child that will be taking up the extended hours for the first time at your setting, you will need to validate the code (via the provider portal) once you have received it from the parent. You will need to perform this validity check once again at the beginning of the summer term to ensure that the code is still valid and has not fallen into the grace period.

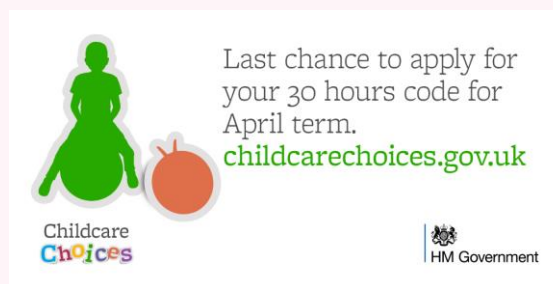
Reminding parents via social media

The Department for Education has now updated the social media communications [folder](#) on the Childcare Choices website with materials for you to use as we approach the deadline (example below).

We have been using these materials on our social media pages to remind parents to apply now for 30 hours for April and to reconfirm eligibility. Please feel free to use these materials on your own social media pages, or you can share or retweet our posts.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/AforC_info

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AfCinfo>



Our Support

We offer a range of support for 30 hours. These are outlined below:

- [Provider resource](#) page on the AfC website
- [Parent information](#) page on the AfC website
- Support workshops – these will usually be communicated to you via the Monday Update and through direct emails to you
- Funding resources on the [provider portal](#) page on the AfC website
- Postcards and leaflets which communicate the 30 hours offer to parents – if you would like copies of this to share with families, please email nada.hassanatou@achievingforchildren.org.uk