

Definition of flexibility

The entitlement

Parents are entitled to access 15 hours of free early learning and care each week across a minimum of 3 days

The length of the offer

Parents will be able to access an entitlement over no less than 38 weeks. Where the offer is made over a longer period, parents will receive the offer for a number of hours a week proportionate to the length of the offer, so less than the 15 hours

Number of providers

Parents are entitled to access the full entitlement across a maximum of 2 providers, except where the LA deems there are exceptional circumstances

Hours in the day

The exact offer will be dependent on local capacity, but parents cannot access free provision for standalone blocks of less than 2 hours, or for more than 10 hours in one day, or for more than 13 hours if accessing the offer over only two days