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Dear Parent or Carer

Free Entitlement to Early Education for Three and Four Year Olds

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some imminent changes to the way in which the Free Entitlement to early education for three and four year olds is delivered.

In September 2010 the Government's new Code of Practice which sets out statutory guidance about the Free Entitlement to Early Education for three and four year olds comes into force. This will bring with it a number of changes to the ways in which childcare providers can deliver the Free Entitlement, which are outlined below. References throughout are to the Code of Practice, which can be found at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00689/

Flexibility Framework (Code of Practice 3.9)

Local authorities are **not** permitted to fund providers for:

- Any session shorter than 2.5 hours
- Any session longer than 10 hours
- Any hours before 8am or after 6pm
- The full 15 hours over fewer than 3 days
(if you want to take your entitlement over 2 days the **maximum** funding available is **12.5 hours**)
- More than 2 providers at any one time.

Minimum guaranteed models of access (Code of Practice 3.3)

Local authorities should guarantee any parent who wants it access to their Free Entitlement as below:

- 3 hours a day over 5 days of the week
- 5 hours a day over 3 days of the week

Unfortunately, there can be no guarantee of a place with a particular provider.

If you require further information regarding this please ask your provider for a copy of the 'Free Early Education Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year Olds' booklet which has full details of the scheme through frequently asked questions.

Alternatively, please contact the Kent Children and Families Information Service on 08000 32 32 30 or via email at kentcfis@kent.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Gamby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Gamby
Head of Early Years and Childcare (Operations)