**Getting started – a checklist for children’s centres**

**Step 1 – we are a children’s centre; how can we get involved?**

As a children's centre, you might be able to provide support for families who need additional help.  You could also help partnerships by marketing the entitlement, or talking to parents about whether they would be interested in taking up the offer.

Some children's centres are combined with a teaching school that could provide training and support for Early Years staff.

You might be interested in the following sections of the toolkit:

* [**Working with Parents**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/working-parents-dfes-30-hours-mixed-model-partnership-toolkit)
* [**Partnerships**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/partnerships-dfes-30-hours-mixed-model-partnership-toolkit)
* [**FAQs**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/FAQs%2030%20Hours%20Free%20Early%20Education%20Entitlement.docx) in the [**Overview**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/overview-dfes-30-hours-mixed-model-partnership-toolkit)section

If there isn't a partnership in your area, you could consider starting one.

**Step 2 – we want to support the extended free entitlement (EFE) for three and four year olds, what do we do?**

Contact your local authority to find out how they are responding to the EFE and whether or not they know of existing partnerships.

Think about how you could work with early learning providers and what you have to offer.

Contact a number of schools and/or private, voluntary or independent (PVI) settings in your reach area and arrange to meet with them to discuss how you could work together.

Perhaps your centre could host a childminders’ network/group and you could work with them on how they could deliver EFE.

You might find it useful to complete the [**Give - Get**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Give%20%E2%80%93%20Get%20Exercise.docx) exercise in the [**Relationship Management**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/relationship-management-toolkit) section of the toolkit before you make contact.

You should also read the following case studies in [**Delivery Models**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/delivery-models-dfes-30-hours-mixed-model-partnership-toolkit) section of the toolkit:

* [**Case study benefits of partnership with wider family support services**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Case%20study%20benefits%20of%20partnership%20with%20wider%20family%20support%20services%20.docx)
* [**Case study blended model 1 primary school, nursery school and children's centre**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Case%20Study%20Blended%20Model%201%20Primary%20School%2C%20Nursery%20School%20and%20Children%27s%20Centre.docx)
* [**Case study blended model 4 partnership with childminders**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Case%20Study%20Blended%20Model%204%20Partnership%20with%20Childminders.docx)
* [**Case study blended model 5 partnership working – inclusion for children with SEND**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Case%20Study%20Blended%20Model%205%20partnership%20working%20-%20inclusion%20for%20children%20with%20SEND.docx)