

Free childcare for 2 year olds

Free Early Learning for 2 year olds - find out if your child is eligible



Who can receive the funding?

Funded places will be offered to families receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit but not entitled to Working Tax Credit and annual income less than £16,190
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the 4 week period immediately after their employment finishes or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week.

When can my child start to receive the funded childcare?

The *earliest* a child can be funded is the **term after their second birthday**.

The table below shows the dates of birth and the earliest term which the child could be funded:

A child born between:	Can be considered for a place from the beginning of the:
1 September and 31 December	Spring Term
1 January and 31 March	Summer Term
1 April and 31 August	Autumn Term 2013

How do I apply?

We have a waiting list of children who we are currently placing and we are working down the list in date of birth order - therefore **older children** on the list are being **placed first**.

If you know which nursery, pre-school, or accredited childminder you prefer, please visit them and take the proof of your benefits with you. A member of staff will check your benefits and complete a form with you and then let you know when funding can start. Alternatively, you can visit a children's centre, and take proof of your benefits. A member of staff at the centre will check your benefits and fill in a form with you. Your child's details will be added to the waiting list and you will be contacted by a Families Information Outreach Co-Ordinator (FIOC) when they get to your child on the list. The children's centre will also register you for their services, and give you details of the activities available for you and your child, at the children's centre.

Where are the free funded places?

Ofsted registered day nurseries, pre-school playgroups and accredited childminders. You can contact the Suffolk Families information Service to find an early years provider near you.

How many hours per week are funded?

Up to 10 hours per week. Your child can start with a few hours and build up to 10.

How long will the funding be provided for?

When a place has been arranged for your child, you will receive a letter confirming the start date. The funding will continue until your child starts their 15 hours of free early education, which is provided the term after their third birthday.