



2 Year Old Offer

Free Early Years Education

What is FREE Early Years Education?

Good Early Years Education from a young age can help to boost your child's development, giving him/her the opportunity to learn, thrive and play. Early Years Education takes place **at nurseries, pre-schools and with childminders.**

From September 2014, more two year old children will become entitled to receive 15 hours of **free** Early Years Education per week. This may be "stretched" so your child can attend during school holidays (a total of 570 hours per year)

If entitled, your child will be able to attend from **the funding period after he/she is two**, up until the end of the funding period that he/she reaches three. At this point, your child will be part of the Early Years Education entitlement for all three year olds.

The table below shows the earliest eligibility start dates:

Child's birthday	When funding can start
1 January to 31 March	1 April
1 April to 31 August	1 September
1 September to 31 December	1 January

Is my child eligible?

You will need to meet at least one of the criteria listed below to be eligible for 2 Year Old Early Years Education from September 2014:

1. Children whose parent / guardian is in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit and have an annual gross household income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

2. Children whose parent / guardian are receiving Working Tax Credits and has an annual household gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
3. Children in Care of the local authority or children who have left care through special guardianship, adoption or residence order.
4. Children with a Special Educational Need (SEN) or disability as defined by the two year old being in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or having a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Can a child take up the offer with any childcare provider?

A list of local providers delivering the 2 Year Old Early Years Education will be made available to each family accepted. Providers used for placements will need to have an Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' and/or have been assessed by our local development team as meeting the standards required. Should a family want to take up a placement with a provider not on the 2 Year Old Offer list, our local development team would need to discuss with the provider entry to the scheme.

What support will there be for my family?

As part of the 2 Year Old Offer, you will be contacted by your local children's centre to provide you with more information on the support available to you and your family. You can choose whether or not to accept this help. Support offered may include family support with a Family Support Outreach Worker who may visit families at home to share ideas and activities that will help with child development, encourage play and support learning at home or by sharing information about other services available within the community such as health services and other advice that may be of help to you.

What happens if the family circumstances change?

Once a child has been accepted onto the 2 Year Old Early Years Education scheme and has started attending an early years provider, this will continue until the child moves into the usual early education entitlement the funding period following his/her third birthday. Should the family circumstances change, for example, if the parent/guardian stops receiving benefits, the offer will not be removed.

Contact information

Please call 0845 6035620 or visit www.hants.gov.uk/eye for more information.

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