



Early learning entitlement for two-year-olds

Frequently asked questions

1. Are all two-year-olds eligible?

No. The parent/carer must apply to confirm that they meet one of the eligibility criteria. Please note Universal Credit eligibility for the two-year-old offer is currently subject to consultation and this may therefore affect the outcome.

2. Can my child get more than the 15 hours per week?

The local authority will only fund 15 hours per week, term time only. Any additional hours are chargeable to the parent/carer at the provider's published rate.

3. Do I pay a deposit?

If your child is only getting the 15 hours per week entitlement, providers must not request a deposit.

4. Do all childcare providers offer the early years funding?

No. Providers must register with the local authority to deliver the two-year-old early learning entitlement.

5. What if I have concerns about my chosen childcare provider?

If you have any issues or concerns you must raise these with the provider directly. If you cannot resolve matters and you think the regulatory body Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) needs to be aware of the information, you can contact them by phone on 0300 123 4666 or in writing to enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

6. Are meals included?

Meals are not included in the delivery of the early years funding. Providers may charge separately for this or you must be given the option to provide your child with a packed lunch.

7. What happens if I stop receiving benefit?

Your child will continue to receive the 15 hours entitlement regardless of any change in your circumstances.



Early learning entitlement for two-year-olds

Frequently asked questions

8. Can my child go to a nursery in a different borough?

Yes, but parents/carers may need to check the host boroughs funding arrangements to establish the application process.

9. Do I need to let HM Revenues and Customs (Child Tax Credit) or the Department for Work and Pensions know if I am getting the two-year-old early learning entitlement?

If you are claiming the childcare element of working tax credit you should let the child tax credit department know how much you are paying for any extra hours of childcare after the free entitlement hours have been deducted.