



Early Learning Entitlement for two-year-olds

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Are all 2-year-olds eligible?

No. Parent/carer must apply to confirm that they meet one of the eligibility criteria. If you are a non-UK citizen who cannot claim benefits you may also be eligible. Please see **extended criteria** application process.

www.lewisham.gov.uk/15hours

2) Can my child access more than the 15 hours per week?

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

3) Do I pay a deposit.

Providers must not request a deposit if your child is only accessing the funded entitlement of 15 hours per week.

Note some providers may request a holding fee that must be returned within a reasonable period. Please check details with your provider.

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

No. Providers must register with the local authority to deliver the 2-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. Check with your provider what arrangements are in place for the provision of food and other consumables. You may be required to provide a pack lunch for your child and may have the option to pay for meals should you wish.

7) What happens if I stop receiving benefit?

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

8) Can my child start a placement anytime during the term?

Each term there is a deadline for childcare providers to submit funding claims to the local authority. Childcare providers should inform parents of this before agreeing a start date. Your child may be able to start after this date, please check with your childcare provider.

9) Can my child attend a childcare provider in a different borough?

Yes. Eligibility must be confirmed by the borough your childcare provider is registered in. In Lewisham applications are made via the Parent Portal at www.lewisham.gov.uk/15hours

10) If my child only accesses the 15 hours free entitlement, do I need to inform the Universal Credit Department?

No, as your child is only accessing the 15 hours funded entitlement.

If you are claiming the **childcare element** of Universal Credit, you should let the department know how much you are paying for any extra hours in addition to the funded entitlement hours.