

Free early years
education for your
two year old

Did you know?

Up to 40% of two year old children (and all three and four year olds) are entitled to free early years education.

Spending some hours a week at a nursery, pre-school or with a childminder will help your child to socialise, play and learn in preparation for school.

Once funding has started, it will not be taken away even if your family circumstances change and your child will continue into the universal free early years education for three and four year olds.

You can ask your health visitor, or another agency who may be working with your family to help you to apply or, if your child already attends a childcare provision, speak to them about receiving your free early years education with them.

Full details and to apply online visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/2yearoldoffer>

For further information

For more information please visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/2yearoldoffer>

For general enquiries contact:

Tel: **0300 555 1384**

Email: childrens.services@hants.gov.uk



Information for Parents
Helping you support your
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www.hants.gov.uk



Hampshire
County Council

Services for Young Children October 2018

Free early years education for two year olds

This is a national scheme that allows your child to get a head start! It offers an opportunity free of charge, to play, paint, read, cook, climb, sing, dance, dress up, be active – not run around, build, garden and, most importantly, enjoy learning alongside other children.

What is early years education?

Good early years education from a young age can help to boost your child's development, giving them the opportunity to learn, thrive and play.

Free early years education for two year olds takes place in approved pre-schools, day nurseries and with childminders.

Eligible two year olds can have up to a maximum of 570 free hours in the child's birthday year. The maximum weekly amount of 15 hours per week of free early years education can be used over two or more days a week.

You may prefer to spread the free hours throughout the year - this is called a '**stretched offer**'.

The early years education provider will be paid directly, so you won't need to worry about managing the money yourself.

Funding will not be stopped once it has started, even if your family circumstances or income changes.

When can children start?

For children who are eligible, the earliest date you can claim will depend on when their second birthday is:

Child's birthday	Earliest start
1 Jan – 31 March	1 April
1 April – 31 August	1 September
1 Sept – 31 Dec	1 January

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

You can take up your child's place with a childminder, at a pre-school or at a day nursery; however, not all providers can deliver two year old early years education.

Only those providers that are approved to deliver early years education and have an Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' (or are working on their Ofsted actions) and have been confirmed by the local authority as able to receive funding can offer you a place.

Details of providers delivering the offer can be found on the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/>

What are the eligibility criteria?

One of the following criteria must be met:

1. Children whose parents / guardians are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax
- tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

2. Children looked after by the Local Authority:

- Child in Care
- Child Leaving Care through special guardianship, adoption or child arrangements order (residence order)

3. Child with Special Educational Needs and / or Disability as defined by:

- Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan)