

Two Year Early Education Funding

Who is eligible?

Many families across Sunderland can benefit from free education places for two year olds if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria:

The family are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance – Income Related
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax credit **and/or** Working Tax Credit and with a household income below the threshold of £16,190
- Universal Credit – with an annual **net** earnings threshold of £15,400

The child:

- Is cared for by the Local Authority
- Has a current Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Has left the care of the Local Authority through arrangements for Special Guardianship or Residence Order or through Adoption

The eligibility criteria has also been extended to also cover the following groups of children where the parents meet the equivalent income requirements:

- Children of Zambrano Carers
- Children of families with no recourse of public funds (NRPF) with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Children of a subset of failed asylum seekers (supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)

When can the place start?

If your child is eligible you can start claiming free childcare after your child turns 2, depending on when their birthday is.

- Children born between **1 April and 31 August** will be eligible to a free place in the **Autumn** term beginning on or after **1 September**
- Children born between **1 September and 31 December** will be eligible to a free place in the **Spring** term beginning on or after **1 January**
- Children born between **1 January and 31 March** will be eligible to a free place in the **Summer** term beginning on or after **1 April**.

Once a child has started attending a setting the place will remain valid until they move onto an Early Education place for 3- and 4-year olds.

Further guidance is available in the [Family Portal User Guide](#).