

## **HOW TO CLAIM 2-YEAR-OLD FUNDING – 2026/2027**

There are two different types of 2-year-olds funding a parent may be eligible to receive for their child. These are 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding and Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds (formerly FRAS funding). Schools and Academies must ensure that their census return matches the two your old funding claim on the Synergy Provider Portal.

### **What are the differences between 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding and Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds?**

The main differences are shown below. Both are paid the same basic funding rate of £7.66 per hour from April 2026 onwards.

<b>2YO Working Family Entitlement</b>	<b>Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds</b>
Claimed by working families/carers meeting certain income requirements. Eligibility criteria can be found here <a href="#">15 &amp; 30 hours support   Best Start in Life</a>	Claimed by families in receipt of certain income related benefits, children receiving Disability Living Allowance or children with looked after status. Eligibility criteria can be found here <a href="#">Education and childcare for families of two-year-olds receiving support   North Yorkshire Council</a>
Parents apply to HMRC online using above link	Parents apply to North Yorkshire Council (NYC) online using above link
If eligible, a parent will receive an 11-digit code from HMRC	If eligible, a parent will receive a 6-digit code from NYC
Must be re-confirmed by the parent every three months with HMRC, to continue accessing 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding until the term after a child's 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday.	Does not need to be re-confirmed. Once a code is received, the child remains eligible to continue to access Early Learning funding until the term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday.
Can access up to 30 hours per week of childcare funding for 38 weeks per annum*	Can access up to 15 hours per week of childcare funding for 38 weeks per annum*
Parent must apply and have received their code on or before <b>31 March, 31 August, or 31 December</b> to claim funding from 1 April, 1 September, or 1 January, respectively.	Parent must apply to NYC by <b>22 May 2026, 2 October 2026, or 22 January 2027</b> to claim funding for all funded weeks available in Summer, Autumn, or Spring Term respectively
Any queries regarding applying or eligibility must be made to HMRC on 0300 123 4097	Any queries regarding applying or eligibility must be made to our FIS Team on 0300 131 2131 or at <a href="mailto:fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk">fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk</a>

\*if a parent is eligible to access both 2YO funding types, maximum funded hours eligible to claim is 30 hours per week for 38 weeks per annum. See below for information on how to input funding claim if eligible for both.

A provider should identify from the signed parental agreement which type of funding a child is eligible to access and which type of funding to claim on headcount.

***If a parent is eligible for both types of funding, but claiming 15 hours per week or less, their funding should be claimed on headcount by a provider as Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds only.***

***If a parent is eligible for both types of funding, but claiming more than 15 hours per week, their first 15 funded hours per week should be claimed by a provider as Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds. Any balance of funded hours left to claim should then be added and claimed on headcount as 2YO Working Family funding.***

*Please ensure that the parental agreement in place confirms the type of early years funding you are claiming on behalf of the parent.*

**When does a child become eligible to access either type of 2YO Funding?**

For both types of funding, a child becomes eligible to access these from the term following their second birthday.

For a child eligible for 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding, the child must not only meet the date of birth criteria shown, but the parent must also have applied and received from HMRC a valid 11-digit code, by the end of the month before a new term starts.

Parents can apply to HMRC up to 16 weeks before their child’s 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday for their Working Family Entitlement code. However, even if the parent holds an 11-digit code, the child must still also meet the date of criteria shown below, before 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding can be claimed.

<b>Your child’s birthday</b>	<b>When they can get their hours from</b>
<b>1 September to 31 December</b>	Term starting on or after 1 January
<b>1 January to 31 March</b>	Term starting on or after 1 April
<b>1 April to 31 August</b>	Term starting on or after 1 September

For a child eligible for Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds as well as meeting the date of birth criteria above, the parent must also have

- **applied and received from North Yorkshire Council** their 6-digit code, before headcount deadline date (as shown below)
- **the child must also be registered and accessing their funded entitlement** before headcount deadline date (as shown below).

<b>Summer Term</b>	Code must be applied for and eligibility confirmed by NYC before <b>22 May 2026</b>	13 Funded Weeks Payable
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Code must be applied for and eligibility confirmed by NYC before <b>2 October 2026</b>	14 Funded Weeks Payable
<b>Spring Term</b>	Code must be applied for and eligibility confirmed by NYC before <b>22 January 2027</b>	11 Funded Weeks Payable

If a parent receives their 6-digit code after headcount deadline date (as shown) **or** the child joins your provision after headcount week, please follow our termly ‘after headcount’ guidance issued when sent to providers to check if after headcount funding can be claimed.

### **How do I know if I can claim 2YO Funding for a child and offer a funded place?**

For a child claiming 2YO Working Family Entitlement funding, before offering a funded place, a provider must:

- Check the child's date of birth means they are eligible to access funding in that term and;
- Check the parent holds a valid code from HMRC using the 'eligibility checker' on the Portal.

Further information on checking Working Family Entitlement codes can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#).

For a child claiming Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds, before offering a funded place, a provider must:

- Check the child's date of birth means they are eligible to access funding in that term and;
- Check the parent holds a letter of eligibility or details of a 6-digit code from NYC – **a code eligibility check is not required.**

If the parent has a letter from another local authority, the parent must apply online to North Yorkshire to check they are eligible. This can be done using the link here [Education and childcare for families of two-year-olds receiving support | North Yorkshire Council](#). As stated previously, a parent must apply and receive their code **and** the child be registered and attending by headcount deadline for the funded hours to be claimed before a provider should include that child on their main termly headcount claim for all funded weeks payable.

***For either type of funding, it is a providers' responsibility to check that a parent is eligible to access any type of 2YO funding in that term, before offering their child a funded place.***

### **How to input a 2YO headcount claim and each type of 2YO funding correctly**

#### **To make an Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds claim only**

Please follow the link here to our Synergy website guidance for guidance on how to add your headcount claim correctly: [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

#### **To make a 2YO Working Family Funding claim only**

Please follow the link here to our Synergy website guidance for guidance on how to add your headcount claim correctly: [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

#### **To make an Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds and 2YO Working Family Funding claim for a parent eligible for both and accessing more than 15 hours per week funding**

Please follow the link here to our Synergy website guidance for guidance on how to add your headcount claim correctly: [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

### **Disability Access Funding (DAF) – Can I claim this for a 2YO Funded child?**

Yes, from April 2024 onwards eligible 2YO Funded children, claiming either Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds or Working Family Entitlement funding can have DAF claimed on their behalf. Further details on DAF including how much is payable, when this can be claimed/paid and what DAF may be used for, can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#)

How will I know if a child is eligible for DAF?

For DAF to be claimed by a provider, the child must be accessing early years funding on headcount week and receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from the Department of Work and Pensions, also on headcount week of the term your claim is made. Your signed parental agreement should indicate when a child is claiming DLA in this section as shown.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Disability Access Funding (DAF)				
Funded children who are in receipt of DLA and are receiving the funding entitlement are eligible for the DAF. The DAF is a fixed annual rate of £975 per eligible child and paid annually to the child's early years childcare provider nominated by the parent. <b>The provider must have a copy of the child's Disability Living Award letter to enable a claim to be made.</b>				
Is your child eligible and in receipt of Disability Living Allowance?	YES		NO	If YES, please give a copy of the Disability Living Award letter to your provider.
Please name the main early years provider that you wish to claim for the DAF. You must give a <b>copy of the child's Disability Living Award letter to make a claim.</b>				

If this is ticked yes by the parent, please discuss with the parent if they wish a claim to be made and how the funding claimed will be spent to benefit their child or the setting. We advise documenting any discussion you may have with the parent, alongside their parental agreement as well as retaining any invoices/receipts to show how the child's funding was spent.

How do I claim DAF?

To claim and be paid DAF alongside the child's 2YO funding a provider must;

- Confirm the child is nominated for DAF on the 'Funding Details' screen, on the child's headcount claim, as shown below

Nominated for DAF\*  Yes  No

- Then, please send to the Funding Team or upload the following supporting evidence:
  - A copy of the signed parental agreement dated after **1 April 2026**.
  - A copy of the child latest award letter from the Department of Work and Pensions to confirm they are being paid Disability Living Allowance. This must clearly show payment for the child is still being made on headcount week, for the term your claim is made.

The headcount claim and all evidence must be received by the funding by the headcount deadline date, for the term DAF is being claimed.

Details on how and where to send all supporting evidence can be found on our DAF website information here [Early Years Funding | CYPSinfo](#).

***It is a providers' responsibility to ensure both the child's headcount claim, and all correct supporting evidence are submitted to the Funding Team by headcount deadline date. No claim for DAF will be paid if headcount or any supporting evidence is missing or submitted after our deadline.*** If supporting evidence is received late or is invalid, providers will be notified

and advised to re-submit the child's DAF claim correctly in the following term instead, subject to the child still being eligible for DAF.

### Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) – Can I claim this for a 2YO Funded child?

Eligible 2YO Funded children claiming either Early Learning funding for 2-year-olds or Working Family Entitlement funding may be eligible and paid EYPP funding for up to a maximum of 570 hours per financial year.

Further details on EYPP including how much is payable, how eligibility is checked, how EYPP is allocated and how EYPP funding may be used can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPInfo](#)

#### How does a child qualify for EYPP?

The eligibility criteria for a child to qualify for EYPP is if their family are in receipt of certain income related benefits (economic grounds) **OR** the child has 'looked after status.' If a child or siblings have qualified for 'free school meals' this does not mean a child will then also automatically qualify for EYPP.

We complete an automatic check for EYPP on 'economic grounds' for a child when processing your termly headcount claim. However, we can carry out this check if a provider has correctly completed the information on the Parent/Carer screen correctly, with all required information added, and you have also ticked the EYPP consent box.

Entering Parent/Carer details enables us to check whether the child is eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding, and whether the child is eligible for expanded hours.

Please ensure you input details for all records that have given their permission to do so, as this ensures you receive the additional funding. Please also ensure that the correct consent boxes are selected as per the usage of the details.

Parent / Carer Details	Partner Details
Forename* <input type="text"/>	Forename <input type="text"/>
Surname* <input type="text"/>	Surname <input type="text"/>
DOB* <input type="text"/>	DOB <input type="text"/>
Email <input type="text"/>	Email <input type="text"/>
Contact Number <input type="text"/>	Contact Number <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> NI* or <input type="checkbox"/> NASS Number* <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> NI or <input type="checkbox"/> NASS Number <input type="text"/>
Tick to give consent to Eligibility Checking for <input type="checkbox"/> EYPP <input type="checkbox"/> Working Family Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Support	Tick to give consent to Eligibility Checking for <input type="checkbox"/> EYPP <input type="checkbox"/> Working Family Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Support

[Switch](#)

If one or more pieces of information are missing, the automatic check cannot be completed. This may mean a provider is missing out on receiving additional early years funding for a child.

The other criteria that may apply for EYPP, is if a child has 'looked after' status. We are unable to check whether a child qualifies on this basis, using your headcount data. We therefore need providers to be aware from their contact with any parent/carer if a child may meet these criteria. If a child's adoption or placement was carried out via North Yorkshire, then our child record may have EYPP added. However, if the child was placed via a different local authority, we may need additional evidence from the parent/carer to be provided by you before we can add EYPP to your headcount claim.

#### How do I know if a child has been found eligible for EYPP?

Once all termly headcount claims are processed and the Portal is re-opened for providers to check claims, this is when you should also check if any children you expected to have EYPP, have this shown. If a child has been found eligible, you will see the initials 'EYPP' for the child in the 'weightings column,' if they are eligible.

Once you have checked headcount, if there is a child you would have expected to qualify for EYPP either on 'economic' or 'looked after' criteria who is not shown with this on the Portal, you must notify the team at [eyft@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:eyft@northyorks.gov.uk). Please confirm the name and date of birth of the child and why you believe the child should qualify e.g., 'economic grounds' or because they have 'looked after' status. We can then review the headcount and child data held and advise further.

***To amend and include EYPP on your headcount for a child, you must contact [eyft@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:eyft@northyorks.gov.uk) and give any further details/evidence by the deadline given for all termly headcount checks to be completed. This deadline will be included in our email to providers when sent asking for headcount to be checked.***

#### *How much is EYPP and what can EYPP be used for?*

Further details on EYPP including details on the amount payable and how to use EYPP to benefit a child can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPInfo](#)

#### **Can I stretch funding for a child claiming 2YO Funding?**

Yes, if you are a provider that offers 'stretched' funding to parents, you can also offer this to parents of 2YO funded children. Further details on 'stretching' funding and how this should be claimed can be found on our website here [Early Years Funding | CYPInfo](#).

If you have not already notified the Funding Team that your provision offers stretched funding, please email [eyft@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:eyft@northyorks.gov.uk) to confirm this.