

One minute guide



Two-Year-Old Government Funded Early Years Education

Introduction

Government funding was introduced to improve outcomes for eligible two-year-old children who would benefit from access to high quality early years education and childcare. A parent's eligibility is based on information provided directly to the Local Authority from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). A potentially eligible parent will be sent a letter explaining that their child may be eligible for 15 hours of government funding childcare per week for 38 weeks, totalling 570 hours per year. Parents may choose a childcare provider who is open for more than 38 weeks and can "stretch" the hours to cover school holidays. By stretching the hours, the child will have less free hours per week over more weeks.

In the letter, the parent will be asked to go to the NYCC website to apply for the funding [Early years funding - two year olds | North Yorkshire County Council](#). The parent will be asked to provide the following details:-

- Parent's name and date of birth
- Contact details
- National Insurance or National Asylum Seekers Number
- Child's name and date of birth

An online Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) will provide an immediate outcome ("Found") for parents who meet the economic criteria. A reference number/code will be given to the parent on the confirmation email which must be given to the NYCC Early Years provider.

When a parent is "Not Found" on the ECS, the parent will be asked to check the information they have submitted to ensure it is correct and matches with information held with HMRC (e.g. surname etc.) and resubmit if not. The parent may be asked to contact Families Information Service (FIS) to provide documents to show the economic criteria have been met.

Childcare providers offering two-year-old funded places will need to have a “Good” or “Outstanding” Ofsted grading. If a childcare provider receives an Ofsted grading that is less than “Good”, the suitability of the provision will need to be assessed by the local authority before newly eligible children can access their funded provision with that provider. If a parent wishes to take up a place with a childcare provider who is not offering government funded places, the provider will need to contact the Early Years Funding Team on eyft@northyorks.gov.uk.

Eligibility criteria for two-year-old early years education funding

Childcare providers (childminders, nurseries, preschools and schools) are wonderful places for children to learn and have fun with friends that supports their learning, development, physical and emotional wellbeing. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and five have a major impact on their future life chances. For some children, their families struggle to find a childcare provider and/or do not understand the benefits of their child regularly attending a childcare setting. It is important to encourage families to take up the two-year-old funding entitlement place and ensure children regularly attend their childcare setting.

Eligibility based on economic criteria:-

Eligible families will have an open claim to one or more of the following: -

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker’s Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit and a household income of £16,190 a year or less;
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run-on (the payment someone receives after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit);
- The child gets the Disability Living Allowance;
- Universal Credit and the household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax not including benefit payments.

Two-year olds can also get free childcare if they are:-

- Looked after by a local authority
- Have a statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.

Non EEA citizens who cannot claim benefits may get free childcare if they are getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:-

- Claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (part 6) or
- Have been refused asylum in the UK (section 4)

If household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax and families have either:-

- Leave to remain with “no recourse to public funds”
- Support from the local council because of a “child in need” eg child protection plan or disability
- The right to live in the UK because they are the main carer of a British citizen (Zambrano Carer)

Further Information

Please contact Families Information Service (FIS) on 01609 533483 or fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk

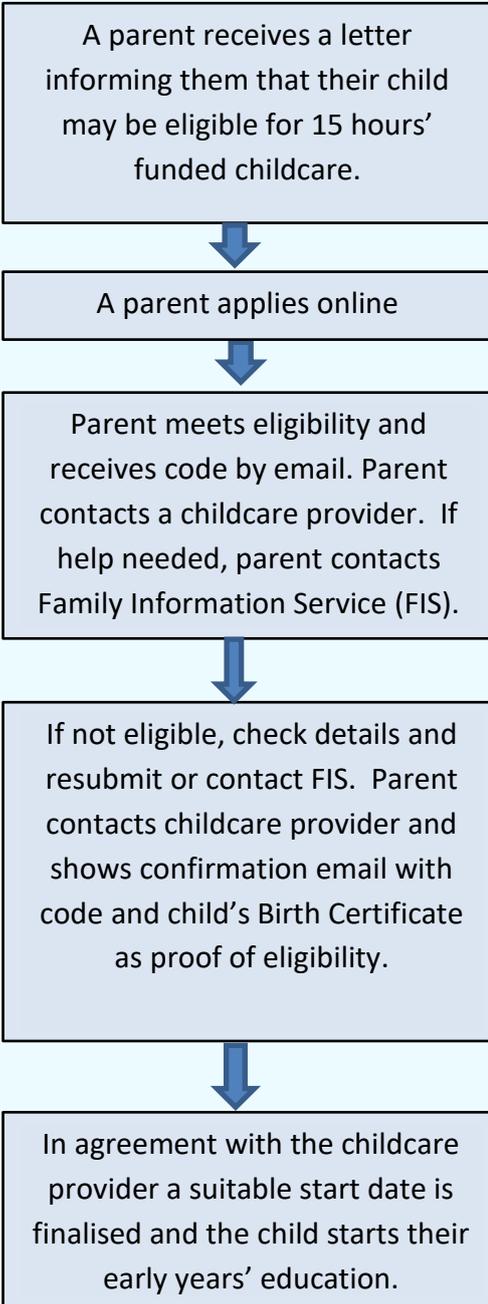
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question	Answer
What are the benefits of young children attending a childcare provider?	<p>There are many benefits of children attending a childcare provider including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the child to make new friends. • Helps a child develop relationships and social skills • Help a child build confidence and independence • Enables them to learn new skills • Develops their speech and communication skills • Prepares them for school, when the time comes. • Gives parents some time for themselves!
Do families have to take the full entitlement of 15 hours per week?	No they can take fewer hours. They just need to talk to the childcare provider. If they wish to “stretch” the entitlement, this will be for fewer hours over more weeks per year.
When can a child start?	<p>The child can start the school term after they are two. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child’s 2nd Birthday is 1st September – 31st December they will start after 1st January. • Child’s 2nd birthday is 1st January – 31st March they will start after 1st April. • Child’s 2nd birthday is 1st April – 31st August they will start after 1st September. <p>It is important that families speak to the childcare provider and check their availability. If they are having trouble finding a NYCC childcare setting for their child, they can contact the Families Information Service (FIS) on fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk</p>
The child has turned three, can they still use the two year old funding?	Two year old funding remains in place until the term after a child’s third birthday when they become eligible for three year old universal funding. For example, if an eligible child turns 3 on 1st January, their two year old funding remains in place for that term until 31st March.
Does the two year old funding stop if my circumstances change? For example my benefits changes or I get a new job?	No. Once a child receives two year funding this remains in place until they take up their 3 year funded place.
Can the funding be split between two providers?	Yes. As long as the total amount of funding does not exceed 15 hours per week.
The childcare provider does not offer two year old funding what can I do?	An Ofsted childcare provider can apply to the Local Authority to become a funded provider.
I’m confused about the funding offer?	Access Early education and childcare North Yorkshire County Council or contact FIS.

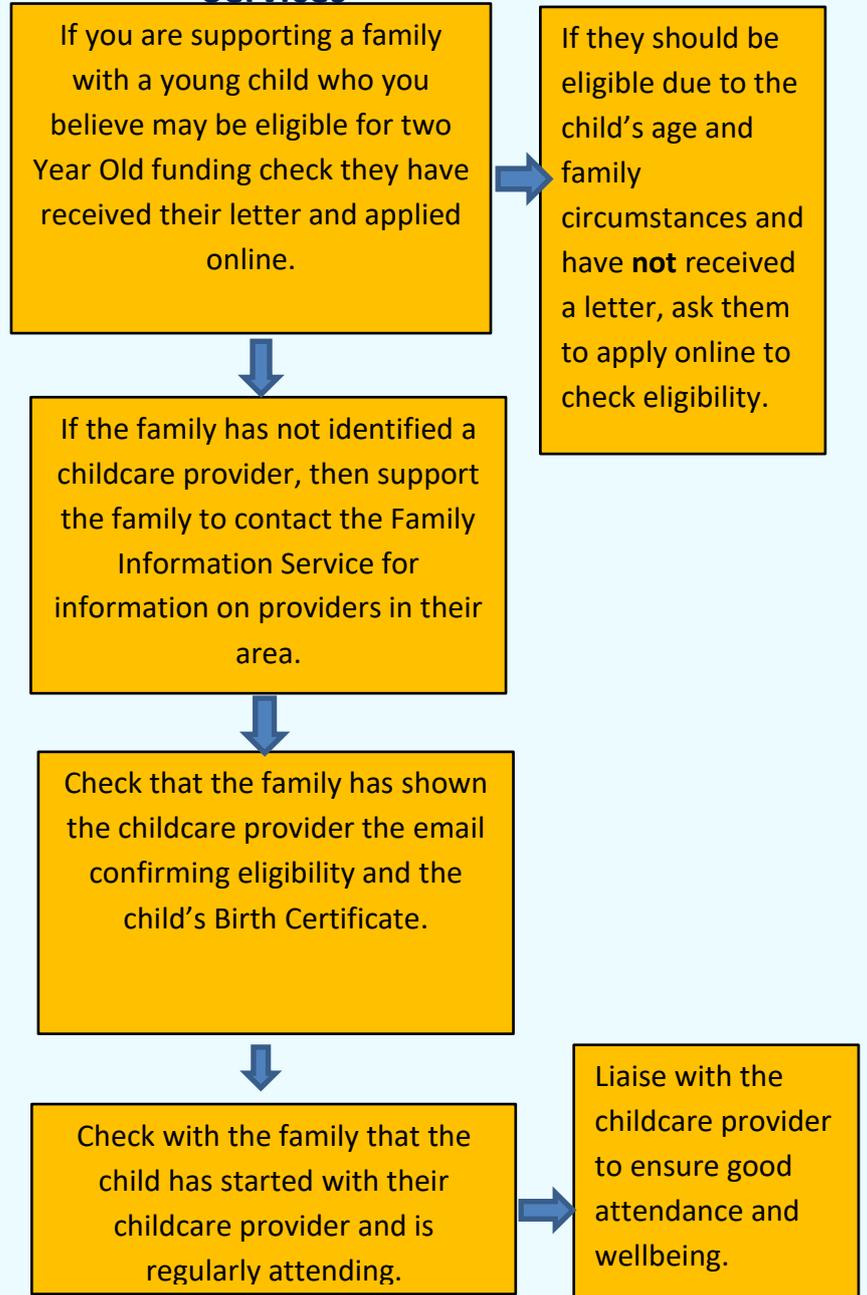
Flowchart

The flowchart below illustrates the process that families, and services that support them (for example NYCC C&F teams, Health, education, community and voluntary groups), should follow.

Family



Services



"The potential of early childhood education and care (ECEC) to support child development, in particular that of children from a disadvantaged background, has long been recognised." Teaching, Pedagogy and Practice in Early Years' Childcare: An Evidence Review.

So please encourage families to take up this fantastic offer and support them to enable their children to attend regularly.