

One minute guide



Two Year Old Funding

Introduction

We have been working on ways to improve the current two year old funding application process for parents. As part of the “Grow and Learn” project, it has been agreed by Senior Leaders that the current way parents apply for two year old funding will be changed to a Golden Ticket letter process.

From November 2020, parents’ eligibility will be established based on information provided directly to the Local Authority from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). All newly eligible parents will be sent a Golden Ticket letter stating that their child will be entitled for up to 15 hours of Government funding childcare provision per week. This is based on 38 weeks per year. In the Golden Ticket letter, newly eligible parents will be asked to contact a NYCC childcare provider to discuss their child’s place. To be eligible for their funded place they will need to show their Golden Ticket letter and their child’s birth certificate to the NYCC childcare provider to secure their place.

The new process is intended to improve the customer journey for the parents making it simpler and quicker for them to apply for a childcare place, which in turn supports place planning in childcare settings. This is important for all childcare providers under normal circumstances but is critical during Covid-19 crisis as they begin to plan for wider openings. Most importantly, it will enable children, particularly the most vulnerable, to be able to access their childcare and education place more easily and hopefully for their full entitlement (i.e. three terms), which will help to improve outcomes for children.

There will be no change to the way applications are processed for children who are: out of county; supported under part 6 of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999, looked after children; left the care of the local authority; have a Statement of Special Education Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan.

Process

NYCC childcare providers (childminders, nurseries, preschools and schools are wonderful places for children to learn and have fun with friends. This supports their learning, development and their overall physical and emotional wellbeing. Attending childcare provision can be an exciting and joyful experience for children and can also help provide a routine as they develop their social skills. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. Early years education is an important stage for children where they can flourish and get the best start in life.

But 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. This is why it is important for all staff within NYCC to understand the two-year funding process and the benefits of children attending early years' provision. It is also important for staff to encourage the families they are supporting to take up the two-year funding entitlement and ensure the children regularly attend the childcare setting.

Eligibility

Families can claim up to 15 hours' childcare per week for up to 38 weeks of the year. Families who are eligible 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 have an annual income no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs;
- The Working Tax Credit four-week run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit); or,
- The child attracts the Disability Living Allowance.
- Universal Credit (Full service only) – for places starting in the summer term of 2018 (on or after 1st April 2018), or any subsequent term, a parent will appear if they are entitled to Universal Credit and have an annual net earned income equivalent to and not exceeding £15,400, assessed on up to three of the parent's most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.

Families who are eligible will be on the DWP List which is sent to NYCC. In the new process the families will be sent a Golden Ticket letter to inform them that they are eligible for up to 15 hours' government funded childcare. The parent who has parental responsibility will receive the Golden Ticket letter.

Further Information

If your families are having trouble finding a NYCC childcare setting for their child, please ask them to contact our Families Information Service (FIS) on fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

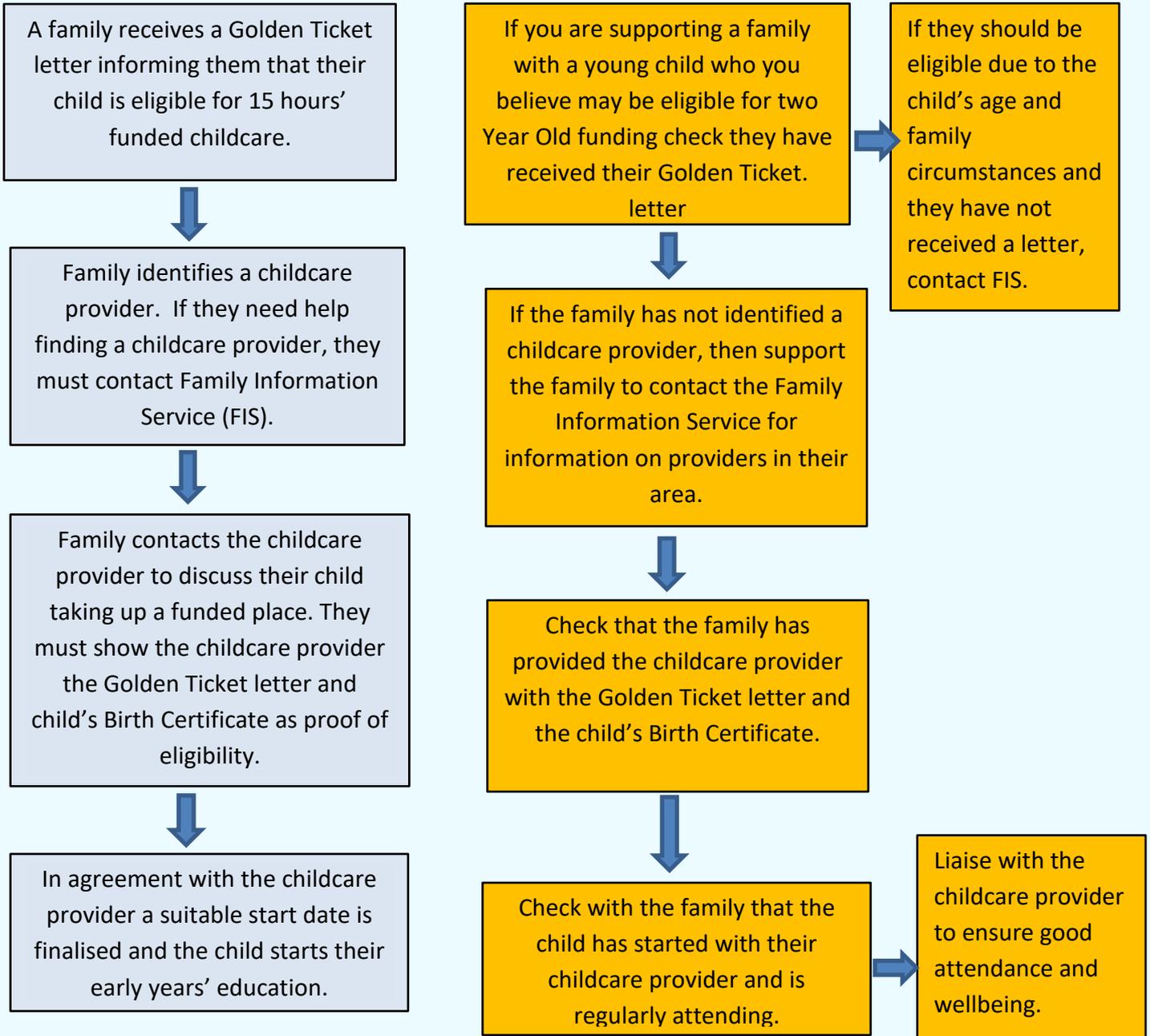
Question	Answer
What are the benefits of young children attending a childcare provider?	<p>There are many benefits of children attending a childcare provider including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the child to make new friends. • Helps a child develop relationships and social skills • 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.
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"> • Childs 2nd Birthday is between 1st September – 31st December they will start 1st January. • Childs second birthday is between 1st January – 31st March they will start 1st April. • Childs second birthday is between 1st April – 31st August they will start 30th 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 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.
What will a parent do if they lose their Golden Ticket letter?	The parent needs to contact Families Information Service who will be able to help them.

Flowchart

The flowchart below illustrates the process that families need to follow and also what staff need to do to ensure families take up their Two Year Funding offer.

Family

Staff



“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 your families to take up this fantastic offer and support them to enable their children to attend regularly.