

FREE Childcare **for 2 Year Olds**

Early Learning Programme

Look inside to see if you are eligible

www.asklion.co.uk/freechildcarefor2s

0800 458 4114



Nottingham
City Council

What is the Early Learning

Programme for 2 Year Olds?

Eligible 2 year olds can access **15 hours a week of FREE** quality early learning at Ofsted-registered childcare settings such as day nurseries, childminders and playgroups. These may be linked to your local Children's Centre.

Children can access a **FREE place** at the start of the school term following their second birthday.

Is my child eligible for a free place?

Your 2-year-old can get free childcare if you live in England and get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

2-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
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.

Contact your childcare provider or [local council](#) to find out more.

If you're a non-EEA citizen who cannot claim benefits:

Your 2-year-old may get free childcare if you are getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:

- claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')
- been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')

is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and you have either:

- leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' on family or private life grounds
- the right to live in the UK because you're the main carer of a British citizen (known as a 'Zambrano Carer')
- support from your local council because you have a 'child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan

A 2-year-old you care for may also get free childcare if your household income



How will my child benefit from a free place?

Children can learn so much at this age by being with other children. At home you are already helping your child to talk, think and play. However, children like being with other children, especially those of the same age and they learn with each other. They will make new friends, experience new activities and have lots of fun!

Mum Stephanie got a free place for her two-year-old daughter and says:

“It’s important for children to spend time with other children at an early age. I would recommend the Early Learning Programme to everyone. My daughter has a smile on her face at the end of every session.”

How do I apply

for a free place?

- Complete the application form online at: www.asklion.co.uk/freechildcarefor2s
- When you have submitted the completed form, a member of the Families Information Service will check your eligibility and provide you with a letter of confirmation
- The Families Information Service will also provide you with a list of childcare providers within your community
- You can then choose a childcare provider and check to see if they have places available

Alternatively

Call the Families Information Service using the free phone number **0800 458 4114**. The Families Information Service will be able to:

- Check your eligibility (please have ready your National Insurance number as this may be required)
- Advise you of which childcare providers are offering funded places for 2 year olds



Apply online/search for childcare provider needs
www.asklion.co.uk/freechildcarefor2s

