

Free Early Years childcare for two year olds (2YO)

Did you know that your 2 year old could qualify for up to 15 hours a week of free childcare for 38 weeks a year (570 hours over a year)?

What is the offer?

Children become eligible from the school term after they turn 2 years old. They can get a maximum of 570 hours over a year or 15 hours per week over 38 weeks in a year.

Your chosen provider must have been inspected by Ofsted and be judged to be Good or Outstanding.

For more information, please contact the Families Information Service for a list of approved registered providers.

Why should I consider using childcare – I can look after my own child?

Childcare can be good for your child. Research has shown that good quality early years education can:

- Improve your child's development, for example; their communication skills
- Help them learn to socialise with other children and make friends
- Help them begin to get ready for school
- Give them access to exciting places to play and new activities

Childcare is also good for families - it can give you a bit more time to:

- Spend with your other children
- Take up a college course
- Go back to work or
- Pick up more ideas of what to do with your child at home and how you can help them develop and learn

Could my child go to the nursery/pre-school/childminder near me that I've heard is good ?

All parents/carers of eligible children are able to access up to 15 hours a week of free early

years childcare and education, with an approved local nursery/pre-school or childminder, dependent on there being an available space for your child. You may have to pay for extra costs like meals, nappies or trips. Please contact Harrow Families Information Service for the current list of approved providers or search online through the Harrow Families Resource Directory which can be accessed via: www.harrow.gov.uk/childcare

What are the eligibility criteria for families?

Children **must** meet either criterion A, B, C or D to be eligible for funding.

Criterion A:– Economic: Children whose parents/carers are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit - if the combined household (both parents) income from work is £15,400 or less a year, after tax, not including benefit payments
- Tax Credits, and the combined household (both parents) income is £16,190 or less a year, before tax.
- Guaranteed Element of the State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Criterion B:– Children looked after by the Local Authority:

- Child in Care 'looked after'
- Child has left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.

N.B. Details of a Social Worker able to verify the above information is required.

Criterion C: Child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability as defined by:

- Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- Child with a current Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEND).
- Child with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.

Note: Documentation copies are required to verify eligibility for Criterion C.



Families Information Service

Tel: 020 8901 2690 (option 2)

Email: fis@harrow.gov.uk

Web: www.harrow.gov.uk/childcare



Criterion D: Non-EEA citizen who cannot claim benefits and are getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act:

- 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')
- If the combined household (both parents) income is £15,400 or less a year, after tax, and have either;
 - leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' on family or private life grounds
 - support from your local council because you have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan
 - the right to live in the UK because the parent(s) are the main carer(s) of a British citizen (known as a 'Zambrano Carer')

Once a child has been agreed for the 2 year old funding they will continue to be funded even if the family's circumstances change at a later date.



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