

## Early learning for two-year olds



Some children may be eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare from the term after their second birthday. Unlike the nursery education for three and four year olds which is open to all, the Early learning for Two Year Olds is only available to children and families that meet certain criteria.

Children love to play and learn, and Tower Hamlets has some excellent nurseries, pre-school playgroups and childminders where they can do just that.

Your child could take up their place in the term after they turn two, with 15 hours a week of free care, if you are on a low income, if your child has additional needs or if your child is looked after by the council. If you have an older child at school and they receive Free School Meals, your younger children will probably be eligible for a free two-year-old place too.

You can check whether your child is eligible by going to: [www.myearlylearning.co.uk](http://www.myearlylearning.co.uk)

Alternatively you can go to your nearest provider, and they will be able to do the check.

You can also call the Family Information Service on 020 7364 6495 to check your eligibility. The Family Information Service will also be able to discuss with you what childcare is available and what best suits you and your child.

To be entitled to a place, you must be receiving one of the following:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit Child Tax Credit and have an annual income not over £16,190
- the Working Tax Credit four-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- You get Working Tax Credits and earn no more than £16,190 a year.

Your child will also be eligible if any of the following apply:

- they have a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order
- they are looked after by the council.
- Families who have no recourse to public funds are not eligible for a funded Early Learning for Two Year Olds.