

29th August 2018

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 contacting your nearest children's centre or call the Family Information Service on 020 7364 6495. The Family Information Service will also be able to discuss with you what childcare is available and what suits best for your child. You can also contact Integrated Early Years Service on 020 7364 1553. Also children's centres or your chosen setting will be able to support you filling out application form.

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)
- Universal Credit annual income under £15,400, – For places starting in the summer term of 2018 (on or after 1st April 2018)
- tax credits and they have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

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.