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One Minute Guide: Early Learning Funding for Two Year Olds

Introduction

From September 2014, local authorities have a duty to secure early education for 40% of all two year olds. Redbridge has a provisional target of funding 1671 eligible two year olds.

All children who meet the eligibility criteria are able to take up high quality early education, regardless of their parent's ability to pay, benefitting their social, physical and mental development and helping to prepare them for school.

Eligible children are entitled to receive 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year from the term after they turn two.

A child is eligible if the family receives any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance (if you are unable to work due to illness or disability)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and earn £16,190 or less per year
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit and earn £16,190 or less per year

Or the child:

- Receives Disability Living Allowance
- Has a current statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Has left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order

Children are eligible for a funded place the term following their second birthday.

A child born on or between ...	Will become eligible for a free place from ...
1 April and 31 August	1 September following their 2 nd birthday
1 September and 31 December	1 January following their 2 nd birthday
1 January and 31 March	1 April following their 2 nd birthday

The funding is for the maximum of 570 hours a year and may be accessed flexibly, either term time only - 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year or stretched by taking fewer hours a week over more weeks of the year – 11 hours per week, 51 weeks of the year.

Funding can be accessed at participating day nurseries, pre-school playgroups and childminders who have achieved an overall rating of 'outstanding' or 'good' in their most recent Ofsted inspection report. Funding can also be accessed in 'satisfactory/requires improvement' providers where there is not sufficient accessible 'good' or 'outstanding' provision.

Application Process and Guidance

Applications are made by completing a Two Year Old Funding application form. Any practitioner working with a family with a two year old child can make an application for two year old funding – family support workers, health visitors, social workers or childcare providers. The completed application form should be emailed to twosfunding@redbridge.gov.uk.

The application form, guidance for making an application and list of participating childcare providers can be downloaded from [here](#). You do not need to log into MARCo to download the information.

How can I find out more?

If you have any queries relating to two year old funding or require any additional information, please contact **FIND**