

15 hours of **Free** childcare for two year olds



What are the benefits for my child?

- Learn
- Play together with friends
- Experience new activities
- Get ready for school

What are the benefits for me?

- Take up a college course
- Go back to work
- Get ideas of how to help your child play and learn
- More time

Is my child eligible?

To be eligible for free childcare for your 2 year old you must be receiving one of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income not over £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit and you earn less than £16,190 a year
- All looked-after children will be funded as well as children that have left care through special guardianship, an adoption or a residence order

What information will I need to provide?

You will need to complete an application form which will include the following:

- Your details (name, address, postcode, date of birth, relationship to the child, e-mail etc.)
- Your National Insurance Number or your NASS Number
- Your 2 year old's name and date of birth
- A copy of your TC602 tax credit award letter (only if you are in receipt of Working Tax Credit)

The Local Authority will use the information you provide to assess your eligibility using sources as allowed by law. You should not need to provide documental evidence unless your eligibility is declined or in exceptional circumstances.

even more families eligible!

How do I apply?

Apply online via www.kingston.gov.uk or collect an application form at your local Children's Centre

when is my child eligible?

Children are eligible the term after their second birthday. Although the term dates change each year the cut off dates are set by Government. This table shows when your child is eligible:

Second birthday between

1st April – 31st August

1st September – 31st December

1st January – 31st March

Eligible from

Autumn Term starting in September

Spring term starting in January

Summer term starting in April

how much free childcare is available?

- A maximum of 15 hours per week over 38 weeks (term time only) though in some cases there may be some flexibility.

- Times and days of attendance will depend on the childcare provider's availability.

where can I access the free childcare?

If your application is approved you will be sent details of childcare providers that offer free places for two year olds.

what happens if my income changes or I return to work?

If your child has already been offered a funded place, this does not change anything. Your child will continue to access the two year old funding until they are eligible for their universal three year old early education funding.

what happens if I change address?

If you move away from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, funding will stop and you will need to reapply to the local authority in which you now live.

will I have to pay for anything?

- You should not be charged for any part of the placement.
- If you want additional hours you would have to request this from your childcare provider and pay for these.

what happens if my child does not attend the childcare provider?

Regular monitoring of attendance will take place. If your child does not attend, the place may be offered to someone else unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you decide to remove your child from the childcare place you must give the provider their required notice.

what happens when my child turns 3 years old?

- All children are entitled to receive early education funding from the term after their third birthday.
- We would hope that children can move seamlessly from 2 to 3 year old funding with the same provider but this is not always possible and you may have to choose a different provider.

- Please check before you register with your provider if your child will be able to stay for their 3 year old funding.

If you have any questions please contact Kingston Families Information Service on **020 8547 5004** (hold for Families Information Service option)