

2 Year Old Entitlement

Information for Parents and Carers

What is it?

Funded childcare is available across Lincolnshire for eligible 2 years olds.

What is the criteria?

Parents and carers need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit or offer evidence to qualify.

The full criteria can be viewed here - <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

How do I apply?

Through the Lincolnshire Parent Portal online: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/2yearolds>

You will need to create an account and add the child you wish to apply for. This is the same parent portal that families use to apply for free school meals and school admissions.

Eligibility Code

If eligible, you will be given a 6 digit code. This code should then be given to your childcare provider.

How many hours are available?

570 hours are allocated for the full year. This is split over 3 terms: Summer, Autumn and Spring. Un-accessed funding cannot be claimed retrospectively from previous terms.

Funding is normally delivered up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks or up to 12 hours per week for 47.5 weeks if you choose to stretch your entitlement.

You do not need to use all the hours allocated per week. Your child can attend for less hours. They can also attend for more hours. Additional hours and services are a private arrangement between you and your childcare provider. You should expect to pay for any additional hours and services purchased voluntarily.

When can funding be accessed?

From the start of the term following the child's 2nd birthday.

A child born on or between	Will become eligible to start their place from
1 st April – 31 st August	The start of the autumn term (September)
1 st September – 31 st December	The start of the spring term (January)
1 st January – 31 st March	The start of the summer term (April)

Will there be any cost to me?

Some childcare settings will offer additional hours for childcare at a private cost. Some settings offer voluntary additional services, such as meals, outings, nappies or sun cream. Your provider might give you the choice of paying for meals or providing food yourself, though it is important to note that this is not possible at all childcare settings (for example, some may not have food storage facilities).

Some settings may also offer extra curricular activities, e.g. Forest school, yoga or music lessons. If you purchase any extra hours or additional services, you should expect to pay for these. Please make sure you fully understand what services you have selected from your childcare provider. Each provider should have a clear admissions policy and fee structure to help you make informed choices about your childcare.

What if my circumstances change?

Regardless of any change in circumstances, children are entitled to continue to access their 2-year-old funding until their 3-4 year old funding begins in the term after their 3rd birthday. 2-year-old funding is not removed when parent circumstances change.

Can I use more than one provider for childcare?

Yes, you can split the funding over more than one provider subject to a maximum 15 universal hours per week (or 12 hours stretched over holidays).

What paperwork do I need to fill out to claim funding?

You will be required to complete a local authority parent declaration form and provide evidence of the child's date of birth to the childcare provider. Each childcare setting will have their own registration forms for completion. You do not need to pay a registration fee to access your funded childcare. If your provider requires a deposit, this should be refunded in a timely manner.

What are the benefits of sending my 2 year old to childcare?

- Making friends and having fun
- Increasing confidence and independence
- Building social and emotional skills
- Encouraging communication and language skills
- Developing physical skills
- Identity building
- Being school ready when the time comes
- A well deserved break for you.



How do I find a childcare provider in Lincolnshire?

If you need help finding a childcare provider in your area, please visit

<https://lincolnshire.fsd.org.uk/> or call 0800 195 1635

When should I apply?

You should apply for 2 year old funding in the term your child turns 2 years old.

A child born on or between	Apply from	Will become eligible to start their place from
1 st April – 31 st August	1st April	The start of the autumn term (September)
1 st September – 31 st December	1st September	The start of the spring term (January)
1 st January – 31 st March	1st January	The start of the summer term (April)

I am having trouble accessing my code. Who should I contact?

The Early Years Entitlement team will be happy to help you. Please email: EYE@lincolnshire.gov.uk or telephone: 01522 552752

For more information about 2 year old funding, visit: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/2yearolds>