Free Childcare Places for 2 year olds

What is the criteria for a funded childcare place for two year olds?

Parent/Guardian is in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit – if a parent is entitled to Universal Credit and they have an annual net earned income equivalent to and not exceeding £15,400, assessed on up to three of the parent’s most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.
- Tax Credits and have an annual gross income under £16,190 before tax
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Or if the child:

- has a current Education, Health and Care Plan
- attracts Disability Living Allowance
- is looked after by their local authority or
- has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or child arrangements order.

From September 2019, there are new groups of children who will be entitled to a free place.

These are:

- Children of Zambrano Carers;
- Children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private/family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Children of a subset of failed asylum seekers (supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 – ‘the 1999 Act’).

This is the only qualifying criteria. If parents/carers are applying under the child led criteria they will be required to submit additional evidence to support their application.

Children who meet the above criteria will only be able to commence their place the term after their second birthday. Applications can only be processed during the term of the child’s second birthday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s 2nd Birthday</th>
<th>When to Apply?</th>
<th>Funded place can start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January – 31 March</td>
<td>After 19 February</td>
<td>After Easter holidays (April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April – 31 August</td>
<td>After 1 June</td>
<td>After Summer holidays (September)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September – 31 December</td>
<td>After 1 November</td>
<td>After Christmas holidays (January)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do parents apply?

**ONLINE**
- Visit: [www.northlincs.gov.uk/TYOF](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/TYOF)
- Click: Apply for Two Year Old Funding
- Click: Register
- Complete your details.
- Scroll down and click: Funded Early Education for Two Year Olds

**VISIT A CHILDCARE PROVIDER**
Parents can visit a local childcare provider. They will be able to complete an assisted application for them and then to determine if they are eligible.

**THEY JUST NEED TO REMEMBER THEIR NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER**

**VISIT A CHILDREN’S CENTRE**
Parents can drop into their local Children’s Centre either for a stay and play session or to apply for two year old funding.

They will be able to complete an assisted application there to determine if they are eligible.

**THEY JUST NEED TO REMEMBER THEIR NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER**

**FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE (FIS)**
- Call on 01724 296629.

They will be able to complete an assisted application over the telephone to determine eligibility.

They can also give details of childcare providers in the local area.

If parents are in receipt of Universal Credit they may receive a ‘not eligible’ result. In this instance, click ‘request help’ and this can be investigated further.