Who is eligible to receive funded childcare for two-year-olds?

Families in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit and earn no more than £16,190
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit

Or

The child:

- Receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Has a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHC)

A child who has left care through:

- Special Guardianship Order
- Adoption
- Residence or Child Arrangements Order

A child who is subject to:

- Child Protection (CP)
- Child in Need (CIN) plan (due to safeguarding)
- Is a Child in Care (CiC)

Please note: For children eligible due to their CP, CIN status a completed 2-Year-Old Funding Application must be signed by a Quality and Access Worker or other member of the Early Years team at Suffolk County Council to verify eligibility under this criterion.

When can a two-year-old child start 15 hours of funded childcare?
The earliest a child can take up the funded entitlement is the term after their 2nd birthday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a child’s date of birth falls between the dates shown below</th>
<th>He or she can have funded childcare from the beginning of:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st January and 31st March</td>
<td>Summer Term (April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April and 31st August</td>
<td>Autumn Term (September)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sept and 31st Dec</td>
<td>Spring Term (January)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many weeks does the funding cover?
The offer is 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time) of the year. Childcare providers may be able to offer parents a pattern of hours which “stretch” their child’s entitlement by taking fewer funded hours a week over more weeks of the year.

How to apply

Parents can check if they are eligible (under the economic criteria) by going to: www.Suffolk.gov.uk/two. If eligible, the checker will provide the parent with a unique reference number. If the parent has chosen a childcare provider, they should take this number to the provider. There is no need for you to complete a form.

If the parent is eligible under non-economic criteria and/or needs support to choose a childcare provider, please complete the 2-Year-Old Funding Application form.

How to complete the form
Complete sections 1 to 6 as fully as possible.

Sections 4: Assist the parent to use the electronic checker: www.Suffolk.gov.uk/two. Alternatively, the parent can provide proof of receipt of benefit, a photocopy of which must be attached to the form. Please see the ‘How to check benefits’ guide.

Section 5: If the child is a Child in Care (CiC) or has left care through special guardianship (SGO) or through an adoption, residence (RO) or child arrangements order (CAO) a photocopy of the order must be attached to the form.

If the child is eligible due to CP, CIN (safeguarding) or the Early Years team will check using CareFirst.

Section 6: Add your name and contact details as we may need to contact you.

Section 7: Do not complete this section. The Early Years and Childcare team must complete this.

Return forms to:
Early Years and Childcare, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Or scan and send securely to: brokerageinbox@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk

Please do not send forms directly to the childcare providers.

For further information contact:
Suffolk Family Information Service: 0345 60 800 33