

April 2017 – March 2018

**This booklet is to help you understand about
Free Early Education for Two Year Olds
at an important time in your child's development.**

Can you tell me a little bit about Free Early Education for
Two year olds ?

Free Early Education for Two year olds is an offer of up to 15 hours of free early education and childcare per week. Check the lists below, to see if you qualify for 2 Year old Early Education Funding, as it is only available to a limited number of two year olds in Rutland.

Financial criteria

You will need to complete an application form and send it to the 2 Year old Early Education Funding team. You can download an application form for the 2 Year old early education application form at:



Web: www.visionsccc.co.uk
Email: visions@rutland.gov.uk
Phone: 01572 772590

If you receive one of the benefits listed below, you can apply for 2 Year old Early Education Funding yourself.

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax

- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

You may have to provide proof of these benefits (the most current letter (all pages) you received, advising of your benefit) if requested.

Automatically funded criteria

If your child is in one of the groups listed below, they will be automatically be eligible for funding.

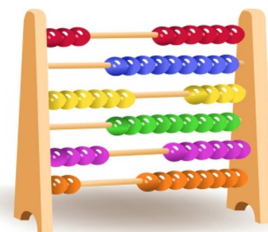
- ✚ Child looked after by Rutland County Council.
- ✚ Child who has left care through special guardianship order, child arrangements order of adoption order.
- ✚ Child receives Disability Living Allowance.
- ✚ Child with a current statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

How many hours can my child have for free?

Your child can have up to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year. Some childcare providers should be able to allow you to use your hours flexibly over the week but

you won't be able to have:

- More than 10 hours in one day
- Less than 2 ½ hours in one day
- Any time before 7am or after 7pm.



The

following are examples of childcare providers who may offer 2 Year Early Education Funding:

- Day nurseries
- Pre-schools
- Playgroups
- Child minders with an Ofsted inspection of good or outstanding
- Maintained schools and Academies with 2 Year old provision
- Independent schools



All childcare providers who offer 2 Year Early Education Funding are inspected by Ofsted to make sure they reach a certain standard, to find out information about a setting visit www.ofsted.gov.uk

When can my child start their free part-time Early Years provision?

Children can get 2 Year Early Education Funding from the term after their second birthday for one year until they automatically receive Free Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds.

Child born between

1 January - 31 March

1 April - 31 August

1 September - 31 December

Can have a free place from the beginning of the term on or after the:

1 April - Term (after their 2nd birthday)

1 September Term

1 January Term

Example: Child with a 2nd birthday on 18th Feb, will be eligible to start claiming the funding at the start of the term, starting on or after the 1 April of that year. In Rutland this is usually after the Easter holidays.

Your child can receive 2 Year Early Education Funding until the term after their third birthday when they will automatically receive the Free Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds.

Free Early Education for Two year olds is the offer of a free part-time early years provision place and not a guarantee of a place with a particular childcare provider.

How are the 38 weeks spread across the year?

Childcare providers are able to claim either for the following weeks each term, not including half-term breaks or school holidays:

Summer term 2017 - 12 weeks
Autumn term 2017- 14 weeks
Spring term 2018 - 11 weeks



If your chosen childcare provider does not offer 38 weeks, you may **not** be able to take the balance somewhere else.

Or if your childcare setting is open all year (52 weeks) then you may be able to spread the hours out over the year.

Does Free Early Education for Two year olds have a monetary value?

No, it is a free entitlement for up to 15 hours a week, for 38 weeks a year. It is not a voucher or a parental subsidy.

How do I claim?

You will need to complete an application form and send it to the 2 Year old Early Education Funding team, situated at Visions Children's Centre Oakham. You can download an application form for the 2 Year early education application form at:

Web: www.visionsccc.co.uk

Email: visions@rutland.gov.uk

Phone: 01572 772590

When completed, it is to be returned, to the address at the bottom of the application form.

Is it really free or will I have to pay any fees?

The offer of up to 15 hours a week, for 38 weeks a year, is free. Childcare providers can set their own rates for additional hours or services but they should let you know if you will be expected to pay anything in advance. You should also get an invoice at least once a term, clearly showing what they are asking you to pay for.

Will the childcare provider ask me to sign any forms?

The first term that a childcare provider claims on your behalf you may be asked to fill in a 2 Year Early Education Funding Registration form. They will ask you to show your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of identity and see your letter of eligibility. They may also ask you to complete a Declaration form at the beginning of every term and another form if you want to increase or decrease the number of hours your child attends.

Can sessions be mixed between childcare providers?

Yes, you can choose to take up 2 Year Early Education Funding with more than one childcare provider if this suits you better. Schools are also beginning to offer a mix of sessions. So, for example, your child could have 9 hours in a local authority nursery school or class and 6 hours with a private childcare provider. If you choose to take up the full entitlement with one childcare provider, and take up additional hours with another childcare provider, you will be charged for all these additional hours.

Can I transfer my funding from one childcare provider to another, if I wanted to change mid-term?

No. Once your child has started the term with a childcare provider and you have signed the Declaration form, the funding for the term will be paid to that childcare provider. In exceptional circumstances, it will be possible to transfer the funding. If you feel that you have to move your child to a different childcare provider, contact Rutland Family Information Service for their advice first.

What will happen to my funding if my child is absent?

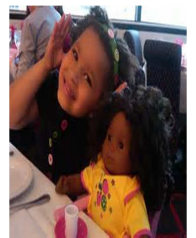
If your child is likely to be absent for more than two weeks you should notify your childcare provider.

Is there any support available for a child with special educational needs and/or a disability?

Every childcare provider will expect to have a child with special educational needs and/or a disability at some point. With careful planning and organisation most of these children are able to take part fully in the activities. Childcare providers are able to get specialist advice from Rutland Early Years and Childcare Service and may be able to apply for the full free hours even if the child does not go all the time.

Can the lunch hour be part of the offer of free hours?

Yes, a child's free hours can be taken up around lunchtime. The childcare provider may make an extra charge for the lunch or you may be given the option of a packed lunch for your child.



What happens if my childcare provider does not offer the full free hours?

Childcare providers in Rutland do not need to offer the full free hours. Some may not be able to be open every day of the week and some do not offer 38 weeks a year. If you choose a childcare provider that does not offer the full free hours, the childcare provider will let you know in writing what that means for you.



What happens if my childcare provider does not offer 2 Year Early Education Funding?

Not all childcare providers in Rutland offer 2 Year Early Education Funding. Rutland Information Service is able to provide you with a list of all providers registered to offer 2 Year Early Education Funding or you can look on the Rutland Information Service at:

Email: ris@rutland.gov.uk

Web: www.ris.rutland.gov.uk

Tel: 01572 722 577 (Ext 8495)

Open 8.30am - 5pm Mon - Thurs, 8.30am - 4.30pm
Friday. Answer-phone at all other times.



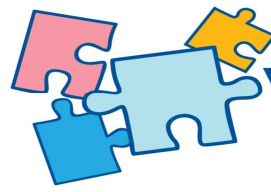
Do I have to live in Rutland?

Currently Rutland County Council only pays for children who live within Rutland. The only exception to this is looked after children who are the responsibility of Rutland County Council (correct at time of going to print).

How can I apply for 2 Year Early Education Funding?



Rutland
County Council



Visions
Children's Centres

You will need

to complete an application form and send it to the 2 Year Early Education Funding team. You can download an application form for the 2 Year early education application form at:

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You can also pop in and speak to someone at your local Sure Start Children's Centre (Visions Oakham).

Rutland Information Service (RIS) offer a free, impartial information service to all families with children and young people aged 0-19 years old (up to 25 years old for young people with a disability or special educational need).

Find what you are looking for on the RIS web pages at: www.ris.rutland.gov.uk

Contact us at Visions Children's Centres

Email: visions@rutland.gov.uk

Phone: 01572 772 590

