



Free childcare for two year olds

Did you know that your two year old could be eligible for up to 15 hours of free childcare a week (for 38 weeks a year)?

This could either be at a local day nursery, playgroup or childminder

Childcare can help your child:

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

Childcare can help you:

- Get ideas of how to play and learn together
- Take up a course or work
- Have more free time

Is it free for all two-year-olds?

No. You need to be in receipt of certain benefits (for example Job Seekers Allowance) or earn less than £16,190 per year but not entitled to Working Tax Credit (usually because you are working part-time).

If eligible you can take up your place, the term after your child turns two.

What should I do if I would like to take up a place?

Visit your local playgroup, nursery or childminder and ask if they are part of the scheme. They will ask for certain information (your child's date of birth, your date of birth and your National Insurance or NASS number). The local authority will use this data to check that you are eligible. You can also ask your Sure Start Children's Centre or Health Visitor for more information.

What if my local playgroup, nursery or childminder isn't part of the scheme?

Most playgroups and nurseries and a number of childminders are part of the scheme. The Admissions and Information Service will be able to provide a list of providers who offer funded places.

If your preferred provider does not offer funded places at present they can get in touch with the Newcastle City Council or Sure Start Children's Centre (see contact details on the reverse).

Why should I consider using childcare – I can look after my own child?

Childcare is good for children – research has shown that good quality early years care can:

- Improve children's development – for example their communication skills
- Help them learn to socialise with other children and make friends
- Help them begin to get ready for school
- Give them access to new activities and exciting places to play - for example they will do painting and play with sand and water and other activities you can't do at home!
- Childcare is also good for families – it can give you a bit more time to spend with your younger children, take up a college course, or go back to work. It will also give you ideas of what to do with your child at home and how you can help them grow and learn.

Will my child be safe?

- All the childcare is provided by professionals who are fully trained in looking after children and have been police checked (criminal record check)
- They are inspected by Ofsted, the organisation that makes sure that schools, nurseries, playgroups and childminders are safe and providing a good education.

Where can I find out more about different types of childcare and what would suit me and my child?

- You can get advice and support from your local **Sure Start Children's Centre**
- You can contact **Admissions and Information Service** who can send out a list of local playgroups, nurseries and childminders
- You can visit the **Family Service Directory**
- Your local playgroup, nursery or childminder.

Admissions and Information Service
0191 277 4133

fis@newcastle.gov.uk
www.newcastlefis.org.uk

