

Briefing regarding Early Education Entitlements in Warwickshire for Asylum Seekers, Afghan Nationals and families from Ukraine

Childcare Choices is a useful website to explain parents' options: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

For more information about childcare parents can also go to: www.gov.uk/get-childcare or visit the Warwickshire website at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts

The government funds early education entitlements for parents of young children:

- All parents of 3- and 4-year-olds can access 15 hours of childcare per week, regardless of their immigration status or whether they are working
- Eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds can access an additional 15 hours of childcare, known as the '30 Hours' entitlement
- Disadvantaged 2-year-olds may be eligible to access 15 hours of childcare

Eligibility Criteria

Universal 15 hours free early education for all 3- and 4- year-olds:

All 3- and 4-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours free early education. This is not dependent on parental income or immigration status. More information can be found at www.gov.uk

30 hours free childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds:

An additional 15 hours free childcare (also known as 30 hours free childcare) is available to eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds. The full 30 hours free childcare eligibility can be found at www.gov.uk and is as follows:

To take up this entitlement, one parent, or both parents in a two-parent household, must:

a) have recourse to public funds;

And

b) expect to earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at National Minimum/Living Wage and under £100,000 per year.

In a two-parent household, if one parent is working and one is in receipt of certain benefits (Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance), both will be treated as in work and will be eligible to apply for 30 hours free childcare.



Eligibility Criteria cont.....

Eligibility for 15 hours free early education entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds (Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds):

The eligibility criteria for the 2-year-old entitlement remains unchanged and is as follows:

To be eligible for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds, from the term following their child's second birthday, parents must be in receipt of one of the following benefits or credits:

- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)*
- *Universal Credit, with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments*
- *Child Tax Credits, with a household income of £16,190 a year or less before tax*
- *the guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)*

OR their child:

- *is looked after by a local authority*
- *has a statement of [special education needs \(SEN\)](#) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *gets [Disability Living Allowance](#)*
- *has left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order*

For non-EEA citizens who cannot claim benefits, parents may be eligible for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds, from the term following their child's second birthday, if they:

- *are getting [support under the Immigration and Asylum Act](#) and have either:*
 - *[claimed asylum](#) in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')*
 - *been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')*
- *have leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) on [family or private life grounds](#), with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax*
- *receive support from their local council because they have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan, with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax*
- *have the right to live in the UK because they are the main carer of a British citizen (known as a ['Zambrano Carer'](#)), with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax*



Eligibility Criteria cont.....

Assessing eligibility for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds:

Local authorities use the Department's Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) to determine a household's eligibility for the entitlement. When making an application for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds, parents will be asked for their National Insurance (NI) Number or National Asylum Support Service (NASS) Number and their date of birth. If eligibility cannot be confirmed via the ECS, additional supporting information will be requested from the parent.

It is not a requirement to have a National Insurance Number when first applying for Universal Credit. However, one will be allocated during the new claim process, which families will then be able to provide as part of their application for the entitlement.

If the family is not able to provide a National Insurance Number, or if a parent feels that the result returned by the ECS is inaccurate, they may provide the equivalent paper-based evidence to us to prove they meet the eligibility criteria and, if required, do not exceed the income threshold. This might include (but is not limited to):

- a) a letter from their bank or employer confirming their income;
- b) bank statements confirming their earnings;
- c) a recent universal credit statement



Families Seeking Asylum - NRPF

These are families who are seeking asylum in the UK and have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF).

Universal 15 hours early education for all 3- and 4- year-olds:

- All 3- and 4-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours free early education. This is not dependent on immigration status, whether they are working or parental income.
- Parents only need to show proof of the child's age.

30 hours childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds:

- Families will need to meet the eligibility criteria for the 30 hours entitlement and should apply through HMRC in the usual way. If found eligible, they will receive their 30 hour code in line with normal applications for 30 hours free childcare.

Childcare funding for 2 year olds:

- Families will need to meet one of the following eligibility criteria:
 - *are getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:*
 - *claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')*
 - *been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')*
 - *have leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) on family or private life grounds, with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax*
 - *receive support from their local council because they have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan, with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax*
 - *have the right to live in the UK because they are the main carer of a British citizen (known as a 'Zambrano Carer'), with a household income of £15,400 a year or less after tax*
- Applications for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds should be made online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts or via a paper copy of the application available from the Early Years Entitlements Team
- If eligibility cannot be confirmed via the government's Eligibility Checking Service (ECS), families will need to supply additional supporting information as requested by the Early Years Entitlements Team



Afghan Families – ARAP and ACRS

Families under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will have recourse to public funds and could be eligible for the free early education entitlements where they meet the published eligibility criteria.

Where some families are transitioning onto benefits there might be some difficulties in assessing eligibility. However, LAs should take a reasonable and proportionate approach to reassure themselves that children are eligible for the entitlements.

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30 hours free childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds:

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Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds:

- Families will need to meet one of the published criteria
- Applications for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds should be made online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts or via a paper copy of the application available from the Early Years Entitlements Team
- If eligibility cannot be confirmed via the government's Eligibility Checking Service (ECS), families will need to supply additional supporting information as requested by the Early Years Entitlements Team
- If Early Years Providers offer a place to any Afghan children with Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds agreed, please confirm their details via secure email to 2help@warwickshire.gov.uk so that we can keep a record for Census purposes



Ukrainian Families

Families with children arriving in the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) will be able to access the free early education entitlements if they meet the existing eligibility criteria.

Information can be found via the following link:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/04/11/how-do-families-arriving-from-ukraine-apply-for-a-school-place-and-childcare-%d1%8f%d0%ba-%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b8%d0%bd%d0%b0%d0%bc-%d1%89%d0%be-%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b8%d1%97%d0%b6%d0%b4%d0%b6%d0%b0/>

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Support and Advice

For 3 & 4 Year Old Funding, including 30 hours:

Email: eyfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01926 742233

Penny Ibrahim, Early Years Entitlements Officer

For 2 Year Old Funding:

Email: 2help@warwickshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01926 742218

Michelle Taylor, Early Years Entitlements Officer

General advice and support for Ukraine families: ukraine@warwickshire.gov.uk

Ethnic Minority Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS): emtadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk and access to online EAL CPD training booked via the SEND & Inclusion Training Programme Summer Term @

https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/Wes/?fbclid=IwAR1pAd6cn7qVprTS_kyT1u3p3Pno-8LKJ9LszVcFUUnN54qM8hDfMuPFLg

