



Early Education Entitlements in Warwickshire

Briefing to update on the extension to eligibility criteria for disadvantaged 2 year olds in all types of No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) households

Introduction - Early Education Entitlements in Warwickshire

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

The Childcare Choices website contains all the information about government help with childcare costs www.childcarechoices.gov.uk and the Childcare Calculator is useful to explain parents' options https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator?utm_source=childcarechoices&utm_medium=microsite

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

Following consultation, from September 2022, the Department for Education has permanently extended eligibility for the two-year-old early education entitlement to disadvantaged children, in households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). This means that the most disadvantaged two-year-olds will be able to access early education regardless of their circumstances, subject to maximum income thresholds.

[Free early education for 2-year-olds with no recourse to public funds - Government consultation response \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)





Eligibility Criteria 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 are 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*

Applications for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds under the above criteria 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.

Extended Eligibility Criteria (from September 2022):

For non-UK citizens who cannot claim benefits and whose immigration status says they have 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF), parents may be eligible for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds, from the term following their child's second birthday, if they:

- *live in England and have an annual household income of no more than:*
 - *£26,500 for families outside of London with one child*
 - *£30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children*
- *have no more than £16,000 in savings or investments*





New Additional Extended Criteria - Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

In September 2019, the government introduced additional eligibility criteria for non-UK citizens who could not claim benefits and had No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), where 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

Following consultation, the government has further extended the eligibility criteria to include **all disadvantaged two year old children from families who have NRPF**. Please note, the new higher income thresholds will apply.

This includes the following groups:

- International Students visa (Tier 4)
- Immigrant families
- Asylum seekers/ Refugees
- Undocumented Migrants
- Skilled workers (Tier 2)
- Graduate visa
- Dependent visa
- Work permit holders
- Private and Family Life visas
- Commonwealth Students
- Zambrano Carers
- Chen Carers
- Spouse Visas
- Hong Kong BN(O)s
- New temporary protection status
- UK Ancestry visa
- Families with pre-settled status who have failed the qualifying right to reside test
- Domestic Worker in a Private Household
- Temporary workers
- Sports person
- Families who have a 'child in need' and receive support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989





Making an Application and Checking Eligibility for Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Applications for the Childcare Funding for 2 Year Olds from families in these groups must be made separately by contacting the Early Years Entitlements Team.

Local Authorities will not be able to use the eligibility checking system (ECS) to confirm eligibility for these families and in order to verify eligibility, parents will be asked to supply relevant supporting evidence as follows:

Confirmation of NRPF status

The parent will need to either :

- supply a copy of a Biometric Residence Permit that confirms their immigration status and whether they have No Recourse to Public Funds
- provide proof of their immigration status digitally. They will need to provide a share code that allows the local authority to check their immigration status via the Home Office's Online Immigration Checking System

Confirmation of Income

The parent will need to complete a self-declaration of their income as part of their application and will also need to supply one form of supporting evidence as listed below to verify this, for both themselves and their partner:

- payslip
- P60
- bank statement
- letter from their bank
- letter from their employer
- letter from the local authority confirming support if applicable





Support and Advice

For 2 Year Old Funding:

Email: 2help@warwickshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01926 742218

Michelle Taylor, Early Years Entitlements Officer

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

Email: eyfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01926 742233

Penny Ibrahim, Early Years Entitlements Officer

