

When can my child start?

Your child can claim their place, the term after their second birthday.

Child born between:

1 st April and August 31 st	Start at the beginning of the September term
1 st Sept and December 31 st	Start at the beginning of the January term
1 st January to March 31 st	Start at the beginning of the April term

Again, if you have any questions, please call us on **0300 123 5033**

What do I do now?

If you think you're eligible for a free childcare place – please call the Family Information Service on **0300 123 5033**. Please call within 12 weeks before your child is due to start at their chosen childcare provider. We will ask for your name, your National Insurance number and your child's date of birth in order to determine if you are eligible so please have those ready when you call.

The Family Information Service will then provide a confirmation letter together with a list of approved providers within 2 miles of your home and away you go!

If you have any questions at all, The Family Information Service will be delighted to help you – that's why we're here, so don't hesitate to ask.



How to get in touch

Call the Family Information Service on: **0300 123 5033**

Visit our website: **www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/FEEE**

Please have your National Insurance number available when you call.



We are 
and enjoying
free childcare.
Are you?





Hi – did you know, there’s now a scheme that offers free childcare for your two year old?

The scheme offers up to 15 hours per week of totally free childcare for up to 38 weeks in the year. It’ll give your child a great start in life. Early childcare helps your child make new friends, learn new skills and most of all – have fun!

It’s all explained below, so please have a quick read through and if you think you are eligible, then get in touch and we’ll do the rest!

Am I eligible for a free childcare place?

If your family receives any of the following support payments, you may be eligible:

- ★ Income Support
- ★ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ★ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ★ Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ★ Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- ★ Universal Credit
- ★ You get Working Tax Credits and earn no more than £16,190 a year
- ★ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ★ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

or, if your child

- ★ Has a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- ★ Receives Disability Living Allowance
- ★ Is looked after by the local authority
- ★ Has left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order

If you think you qualify – or are not sure – please contact the Family Information Service on **0300 123 5033** to find out.



How many hours can my child have for free?

Up to 15 hours per week of free childcare may be accessed term time only (38 weeks of the year) or up to 11 hours per week if accessed over the whole year. Meals are not included. This will be subject to the childcare providers' opening times and availability.

Does free childcare have a monetary value?

No – it’s a free entitlement up to 15 hours a week for up to 38 weeks a year.

Is it really free or will I have to pay for anything extra?

Your 15 hours is totally free – you can buy additional hours if you want. Childcare providers may charge for meals or give you an opportunity to provide a packed lunch – please ask your chosen childcare provider for more information.

Which childcare provider can I choose?

Childcare providers must be registered to provide free places. You can check to see if they are registered by contacting the Family Information Service. The following are examples of childcare providers – day nurseries, schools, pre-schools or childminders. [Just to be clear – the scheme offers a place for a two year old but we cannot guarantee a place with a specific childcare provider]

Can sessions be mixed between childcare providers?

Yes – you may take up your free entitlement between a maximum of two childcare providers.

Can I transfer my free place from one childcare provider to another during a term?

Sorry, no – once your child has started you must continue with your chosen childcare provider for that term, but you could change at the start of the next term if you wanted to.

