

# Free Early Years Education for 2 Years

by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals - Monday, October 20, 2014

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## Free Early Education For Some Two Year Old Children

After a child turns two years old, they might be able to have up to 15 hours a week of free early education. This is called Free Early Education and it is paid for by the government. Some of the benefits of early education are shown below. You can apply if you are on out of work benefits, on low income benefits, or if you have a child with a disability or special need. If you would like more information please call into your nearest children's centre, or call our friendly advisers at Family Information Service on 0800 195 0137.

### What does your child gain from attending early education?

Young children learn as they play. They make new friends as they mix with other children. They explore the world around them and learn new things. At a good quality early years setting children can:

- Play in an environment that has toys and resources planned to meet their needs
- Get help with their speech and language
- Start to gain the skills that help them when they start school

### How will you benefit?

- Parents can learn about their child's development and how to better support their child
- Parents have time to learn new skills, or attend appointments (for example at the hospital)
- Parents may want to find work or access training

### Rules

If you are eligible you will get up to 15 hours of free early education a week, for up to 38 weeks in the year your child is aged two. After this all families are able to receive the same amount of early education for 3 and 4 year old children.

Funding is paid directly to the early years setting that the child attends. Parents can only use an early years setting which is registered with Ofsted. This could be a nursery, a playgroup or a childminder. We cannot fund any other types of care, including family arrangements. Parents are strongly encouraged to use early years settings with an Ofsted grade of 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

### **Further information**

Information about early education and childcare in your area can be found on the Lancashire County Council website [www.lancashire.gov.uk/family](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/family) or by calling Family Information Service on Freephone 0800 195 0137. If you want to speak to someone face to face please visit your nearest children's centre.