

Early Learning and Childcare 2 year olds 2026/27

Parents of children born between **1st March 2024 and 28th February 2025** may be eligible for a free early learning and childcare place if they meet one of the qualifying criteria below

Eligibility Criteria

- Income Support
- **Income-based** Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- **Any income related** element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity/severe disablement allowances
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit where the monthly earned income does not exceed £885
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Alternative Eligibility Criteria

- Children aged two or over who are (or have been at any point since turning two):
 - looked after by a local council,
 - the subject of a kinship care or
 - guardianship order
- Children of a parent who has experience of care with a child born between the birth dates above.

When to apply

Child's DOB	Application date	Funding start
01/03/2024 – 31/08/2024	25 May 2026	19/08/2026
01/09/2024 – 31/12/2024	1 Oct 2026	06/01/2027
01/01/2025 – 28/02/2025	6 Jan 2027	19/04/2027

To apply or find out more, contact your nearest early learning and childcare provider or visit:
www.scotborders.gov.uk/elc2