

Early education and childcare

for 2, 3 and 4 year olds





All the small things your child learns when they're two, three and four years old can make a big difference later.

Early education and childcare sessions at a nursery, pre-school or childminder can help your child:

make friends and have fun

develop routines

grow their language and communication skills

get ready for school

Give your child the best possible start to life.

FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION



**FUNDED HOURS MAY BE OFFERED
OVER 38 WEEKS OR SPREAD
ACROSS THE WHOLE YEAR.**

You don't have to take the full 15 hours if it's not right
for you or your child

**WHERE CAN PARENTS GO TO FIND
FUNDED CHILDCARE PLACES?**

choose from a range of childcare providers including:

- childminders
- day nurseries
(some of which are based on school sites)
- preschools

Find childcare providers offering funded sessions near you

VISIT: www.staffordshireconnects.info or

EMAIL: eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk

THINK 2

Funded Early Learning Childcare Sessions

Some families may be eligible for up to 15 hours of funded childcare for their 2 year old if they are in receipt of certain benefits. In Staffordshire this is called Think2. To see a list of benefits and how to apply, go to:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/think2

If you can't get online or need help to apply, talk to your Childrens Centre, or main library. You can also call one of the team on:

0300 111 8007 or

email: eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk

2 year olds

Think2 When can I apply?

Apply from the term your child has their 2nd birthday or at any point after.

If your child is confirmed eligible for Think2, the funding will stay in place until they attend school, even if your circumstances change.

Child turns 2 years of age between:	Earliest you can apply:	Earliest you can start:
1st January - 31st March	Spring Term (from 1st January)	Summer Term (from 1st April)
1st April - 31st August	Summer Term (from 1st April)	Autumn term (from 1st September)
1st September - 31st December	Autumn term (from 1st September)	Spring Term (from 1st January)



3 & 4 year olds



15 Hours

- 15 hours of funded early education: every 3 and 4 year old is entitled to 15 hours of early education per week.

You don't need to apply for the funding, just go straight to a registered or approved childminder, nursery or preschool to book your child's place.

The funded hours will start from the term after the child's 3rd birthday

Child turns 3 years of age between:

Earliest they can start:

1st January - 31st March

Summer Term
(from 1st April)

1st April - 31st August

Autumn Term
(from 1st September)

1st September -
31st December

Spring Term
(from 1st January)



30 Hours

- **30 hours** of funded early education - some families of 3 and 4 year olds who meet the earnings criteria may be eligible for **an additional 15 hours** of early education, totalling up to 30 hours per week.

Is your child eligible?

Apply online for the extra 15 hours at:
www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If your application is approved you'll be sent a confirmation code from HMRC which must be passed onto your childcare provider. Parents must reconfirm their eligibility with HMRC every 3 months.

The extra 15 hours start from the term after you receive your code from HMRC for an age eligible child.





Help with childcare costs

Tax Free Childcare

Parents can apply online through Childcare Choices and can save up to £2000 per year, per child, or up to £4000 per year for a disabled child. For every £8 you pay in, the government will top it up with an extra £2.00.

Find out more

Find out more about additional help with childcare costs and what is best for your family through the easy to use website: childcarechoices.gov.uk

Other funding

Some children may be eligible for additional funding.

Speak to your childminder, nursery or preschool for more details if you think your child may be eligible.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) - paid to childminder, preschool or nursery to spend on facilities, equipment and learning experience to benefit your child. Find out more at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/eyp

Disability Access Fund (DAF) - find out more at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/daf

Contact us

- Email: eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01785 278201
- www.staffordshire.gov.uk/eef
- www.staffordshireconnects.info

