

For further information

To find out whether your child can access free funding for early learning and childcare please contact either Your Health Visitor directly or via your local GP surgery or,

One of the following Children's Centres;

- Coningsby & Kington Children's Centre, Leominster
Tel: 01432 383340
- Green Croft Children's Centre, South Wye Hereford
Tel: 01432 383860
- South Meadow Children's Centre, South Wye Hereford
Tel: 01432 260540
- Springfield Children's Centre, South Wye Hereford
Tel: 01432 261730
- Widemarsh Children Centre, North Hereford
Tel: 01432 383430
- HOPE Family Centre, Bromyard
Tel: 01885 488495
- Ryefields Children Centre, Ross
Tel: 01432 260700
- Golden Valley Children Centre
Tel: 01432 383209



More information is also available from:
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/education/44496.asp

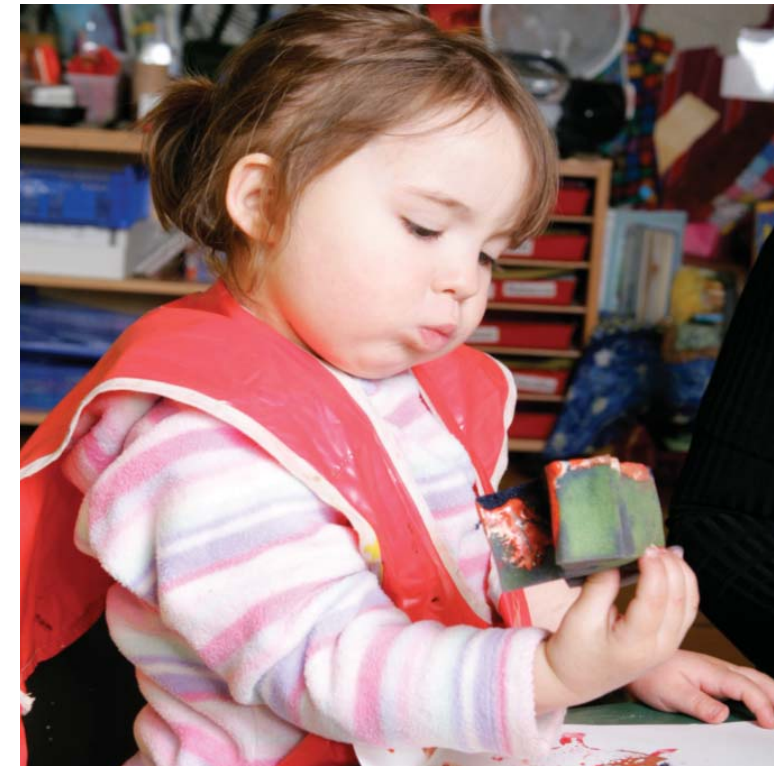
Herefordshire Family Information Service at:

e-mail: childcareinfo@herefordshire.gov.uk
or via: www.herefordshire.gov.uk



If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact the Family Information Service: 01432 261681.

Guide to Free Early Years Provision for 2 year olds



Supporting growing and learning

All children deserve the best start in life. All early years professionals are committed to providing quality early learning and care for young children, with a common aim that all children should:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

Play is learning and learning is play. When a child is two everything is a new learning experience. Accessing quality led early learning and childcare by professionals will enhance a child's experience, promoting thinking, language and social skills. Research recognises that good quality early learning and childcare has a positive impact on their future education and life chances.

Accessing good quality early learning and childcare allows a child's parents or carers time to access work, training or skills to improve their family lives.

Funded places in Herefordshire

Currently only a small percentage of children can access a funded place in Herefordshire. In line with Government initiatives more places will become available over the next few years.

There is an application process in place accessible through health, education and child centred services.

To be eligible for a place the child's family will need to meet several criteria based around where they live, the benefits they are in receipt of as well as the individual needs of the child and the family.



Frequently asked questions

Q: Can my child access the funding?

A: To be eligible for funding you must live in identified areas of the county. It will also depend on any benefits you are in receipt of and your personal circumstances.

Q: My child is nearly two can they get funding?

A: If eligible, funding is available at the beginning of the school term following their second birthday, in September, January or April.

Q: If eligible for funding, which child care setting can I use?

A: A number of high quality settings have been asked to participate. During the referral process you will be asked to choose from a list.

Q: How much free childcare is available?

A: Although Government initiatives will increase the offer to 15 hours during the next few years, the current offer for early learning and childcare in Herefordshire is:

- 10 hours for 38 weeks per year or,
- 7.5 hours for 50 weeks per year.
- As a minimum of 2.5 hours, in line with funding for 3 and 4 year olds.