

2 Year Old Funding and Early Years Pupil Premium

2 Year Old Funding

Information for parents and carers on free early education places for two year olds is available on the West Berkshire Council website. This includes an online form to apply for the funding.

West Berkshire Council's Early Years Service receives lists from the DWP throughout the year with details of parents that are potentially eligible for a 2 year old funded place. These parents are written to with details of how to apply. If a parent or carer is eligible for 2 year old funding for their child, they will receive a letter from West Berkshire Council confirming that they are eligible and a Unique Reference Number which confirms to the Early Years provider that the child is eligible.

The Early Years Service provides support to parents with completing the online form and help finding a placement for their child if requested.

Early Years providers claim funding through the Early Years Funding Portal and there are 3 opportunities to do this each term. The current process for schools is to submit a claim form to the Early Years Service but from September 2016, schools will be able to claim through the Early Years Funding Portal.

Take up of 2 Year Old funded places in West Berkshire is at 71%. The national figure for take up is 76%.

The table below provides a snapshot of eligibility and take up of places for the period Spring Term 2015/16:

No. of eligible parents from DWP list	357
No. of places taken up	235
Place taken up with EY Setting or Childminder	185
Place taken up with a School	50
Total uptake	66%

The Early Years Funding Portal also has functionality for a 'citizens portal' where parents and carers can apply for 2 Year Old funding. The Early Years Service is working to launch this by April 2017 to streamline the process for 2 Year Old funding.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Early Years Pupil Premium is claimed through the Early Years Service and paid to providers as part of the Free Entitlement funding process.

To claim EYPP, Early Years providers must ensure they have an Early Years Voluntary Registration form which has been signed by the parent or carer to give consent for their details to be checked. Providers can apply for EYPP through the

Early Years funding portal where the parent and carer details are checked for eligibility. These details are checked before each Free Entitlement payment to pick up newly eligible children and to recheck previous applications. As with 2 Year Old funding, the current process for schools is to submit a claim form to the Early Years team but from September 2016, schools will be able to claim EYPP through the Early Years Funding Portal.

Take up of Early Years Pupil Premium in West Berkshire is low and the Early Years Service is exploring ways to increase this. This includes:

- Several Local Authorities include EYPP check consent on their Early Education parent declaration form which reduces the need for a separate form to be completed. This allows all parents to be checked. The Early Years Service has reviewed the West Berkshire parent declaration form to include this information.
- Contacting each provider prior to headcount days to remind them to send out reminders to parents about eligibility
- Advertising the Early Years Pupil Premium to parents via local points of contact, Family Wellbeing Hubs, libraries, doctor's surgeries and via information for parents shared with our health colleagues.
- Targeting and approaching providers in areas where we know there to be a greater number of eligible families
- Working with job centre plus to get the information to families.