

Will my child be able to access this free childcare?

The government has set an eligibility criteria to make it easier for families to see whether they can access this childcare.

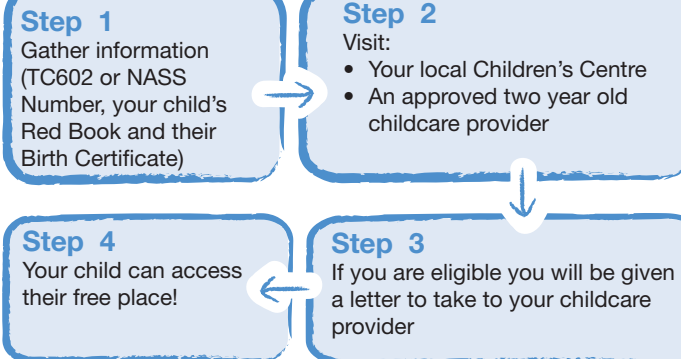
If you receive any of the following, your child may be eligible:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support through Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit / Working Tax Credit and have an income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Your child may also be eligible if they:

- Are looked after by the local authority
- Have a current Statement of SEN or an Education, Health & Care Plan
- Have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order
- Receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

What do I need to do:



Contacts:

- Visit: your local children's centre
- Go online: www.localdirectory.bolton.gov.uk/childcare
- Email: families@bolton.gov.uk
- Ring: **Families Information Service on 01204 332170**

Complaints:

Bolton Council has a complaints procedure and the first step is to email the Families Information Service at families@bolton.gov.uk or telephone **01204 332170** to discuss your concerns.

Free
childcare for
two year olds



Did you know that your child may be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare a week?

How will this help my child?

Good quality childcare helps your child learn and can really help your family by:

- Providing your child with lots of fun, exciting and challenging activities
- Supporting your child's development
- Allowing your child to build relationships with other children and adults
- Preparing your child for school
- Giving you the time to spend with younger children, to get back in to work or to go to college
- Having opportunities to meet other parents and families



What childcare can we access?

There are lots of different childcare providers across Bolton – these include nurseries, pre-school playgroups and child minders.

Providers who have a good or outstanding inspection from Ofsted can apply to Bolton Council to be an 'approved two year old provider'. For a list of approved providers call into your local children's centre or go online www.localdirectory.bolton.gov.uk/childcare

The free childcare offer is flexible. If your child is eligible they can access up to 15 hours a week (38 weeks a year) or a maximum of 570 hours over a year.

Providers are not allowed to charge you anything for the free place and should not ask you for a deposit or administration fee. They can charge you for optional additional services including:

- Meals
- Trips and additional classes
- Nappies
- Any extra childcare you agree separately

Two year olds who are eligible can access a childcare place from the beginning of the term after they turn two.

If your child turns 2 between	They can access their childcare place in the
1 Sept - 31 Dec	Spring term (Jan after they turn 2)
1 Jan - 31 Mar	Summer term (Apr after they turn 2)
1 Apr - 31 Aug	Autumn term (Sept after they turn 2)

What is an eligibility check ?

When you have an eligibility check you will need to give:

- Your name
- Your date of birth
- Your national insurance number
- Your child's name
- Your child's date of birth

Please take information that might help to show your eligibility (TC602 or NASS Number, your child's Red Book and their Birth Certificate).

If you are eligible you will be given a letter to take to your childcare provider. When you register your child you will need to give this letter to the provider and both agree when the childcare will take place.

Sometimes parents want their child to go to a childcare provider in another area, to make it easier for them to get to work for example. You will need to have your eligibility checked in Bolton first then you can take the letter to your chosen childcare provider.

What do I need to do?

If you think that your child may be eligible you can visit :

- Your local Children's Centre
- An approved two year old childcare provider who can ring up on your behalf to check your child's eligibility

You will need to provide some information for this check