

Funding Process for Social Care Teams

2-year-old funding

Children who are eligible can receive their funded childcare from the beginning of the term after their second birthday. Please refer to the table below:

A child who turns two between:	Is eligible for a funded place from:
1 January to 31 March	April (Summer Term)
1 April to 31 August	September (Autumn Term)
1 September to 31 December	January (Spring Term)

Families may be eligible under the economic criteria, please check here: www.suffolklearning.com/early-years/professional-referrer-info/

Non-economic (other) criteria

Families may be eligible for other reasons:

The child has an **Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)**, prepared under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014

- Parent will have a copy of their child's Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).

The child is in receipt of **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**, under section 71 of the Social Security and Contributions and Benefits Act 2014

- Parent will have an award letter from the Disability and Carers Service.

The child is **looked after by a local authority** (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) or by a local authority in Wales within the meaning given by section 74(1) of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The child has been but is no longer looked after by the local authority because of an **Adoption Order**, a **Special Guardianship Order** or a **Child Arrangement Order** (within the meaning of section 8(1) of the Children Act 1989 or section 74(1) of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014).

- Parent/Carers will have an Adoption Certificate, Special Guardianship Order, Residence or Child Arrangement Order.

Child in Care (CiC) or Child Protection (CP) or Child in Need (CIN)

- Please email your chosen childcare provider, confirming the child has an open social work case or has been referred to a CiN Team. The childcare provider will input your details into the system, which the Early Years and Childcare Brokerage Team will confirm using Liquid Logic.

Early Years Families First Funding

IMPORTANT: Families will only be considered if they are eligible for 2-year-old funding as per the criteria under 'Check my child's eligibility' tab www.suffolk.gov.uk/two

If the 2-year funding criteria is **met**, vulnerable families with children turning 2 years old may be funded where one of the following criteria **also** applies:

- Children are subject to a Child Protection or Child in Need plan due to safeguarding
- Children at risk of a placement breakdown

- Keeping families together under Kinship care
- Parent is accessing mental health support
- Parent is attending alcohol or drug treatment program
- Sudden or unexpected changes in family circumstances (urgent medical treatment required, death of a parent/sibling)
- Ever received Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) support
- Ever received Young Person Pathway (YPP) support from 0-19 Health Visiting Team

For families who are eligible please see further guidance and an application form on Suffolk Learning and Good Practice guide, see links below.

3-year and 4-year-old funding

Children are automatically eligible for 15 hours funded childcare per week from the term after their 3rd or 4th birthday until they start school. Parent/Carer to contact the chosen childcare provider directly.

Foster Carers

Do you have Foster Carers who are caring for a

- 9 month + child who could be eligible for 15 hours funded childcare?
- 3 or 4 year old who could be eligible for 30 hours funded childcare?

Please note: There is a different process for a 2 year old foster child. Foster carers should use the Suffolk online checker and apply under the non-economic 2 year old www.suffolk.gov.uk/two

All 9 month+ children of eligible working parents can have up to 15 hours funded childcare a week from the term after they turn 9 months old.

All 3 & 4 year old children can have 15 hours funded childcare a week from the term after their third birthday (universal offer)

Eligible working parents **including working foster parents** can have funded childcare up to 15 hours (for 9 month+) or up to 30 hours (for 3 or 4 year olds).

Foster Carers of eligible fostered children can apply **if they are currently employed or self-employed outside their fostering responsibilities.**

Please discuss and request eligible foster carer applications with Danny.Gwilliam@suffolk.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Foster carers are unable to apply using Childcare Choices.

For further information please refer to the Guidance on:

Suffolk Learning www.suffolklearning.com/early-years/professional-referrer-info/

Good Practice Guide <https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/CYPGoodPracticeGuide/SitePages/Early-years.aspx>

If you require any further information, please email the brokerageinbox@suffolk.gov.uk