

Funded Early Learning Sessions for Two, Three- and Four-Year Olds

Dear Parents/Carers,

Some 2-year olds and all children aged 3 and 4 years, are eligible for fully funded early learning sessions, at a childminder, pre-school or Nursery.

The sessions can help them:

- Make friends and have fun
- Grow their language and communication skills
- Get ready for school

And, parents can use the time to return to training or work.

To find out who is eligible and how to apply please visit the Staffordshire website using the link below:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/helpwithchildcarecosts

If you are unable to get online, you can also ask for information at a Staffordshire children's Centre or library.

Here at Langdale we offer full time provision in Little Learners, this is our pre-school from 2 years onwards. We also have a fully staffed, full time Nursery. Your child can attend our Nursery from the September after your child's 3rd birthday. We are also running EYFS open days on 11th and 13th October, 9:30-10:30am and 1:30-2:30pm on both days.

If you require more information regarding the provision we offer please contact Mrs Ray, EYFS Lead on emma.ray@langdale.staffs.sch.uk.

Many thanks.



Age 2

Some 2 year old children are eligible for funded early learning childcare sessions at a childminder, nursery or preschool. In Staffordshire this is called Think 2.

- 2 year olds whose families receive certain forms of financial or practical support are eligible.
- A maximum of 570 hours can be taken per year:
 - 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time)
 - Some providers will allow parents to 'stretch' the hours, using fewer hours per week for up to 52 weeks.
- Parents choose which childminder, preschool, day nursery, or out of school club to use - they can use more than one.
- Sessions are funded from the term after an eligible child's second birthday.



More about Think 2

- Eligibility - [page 4](#)
- How to apply - [page 5](#)



Age 2 Eligibility

Family claims:

- Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit, and has a household income of £15,400 a year or less
- Child Tax Credit OR Working Tax Credit and a household income of £16,190 a year or less
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

2 year olds who:

- Receive a Disability Living Allowance
- Are looked after by their local authority
- Have left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order
- Have an Education, Health and Care plan



The list above may change, please visit
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Think2 to see the full criteria.



Age 2 How to apply

Parents apply to Staffordshire County Council for Think 2 funding.

Apply online

The easiest and quickest way to apply is online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Think2

If a parent can't get online to apply, they can visit a Staffordshire library, children's centre, childminder, preschool, or nursery who will help them apply.



- Apply from the term the child has their 2nd birthday or at any point after.
- If a child is confirmed as eligible for Think2, the funding will stay in place until they attend school, even if the family circumstances change.



Age 3 and 4

Every 3 and 4 year old child is eligible for funded early learning childcare sessions at a childminder, nursery or preschool. In Staffordshire this is called universal funding.

- All 3 and 4 year olds in Staffordshire.
- A maximum of 570 hours can be taken per year:
 - 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time)
 - Some providers will allow parents to 'stretch' the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours per week
- Parents choose which childminder, preschool or nursery to use - they can use more than one.
- The funded hours will start from the term after the child's 3rd birthday.



Parents go straight to a registered or approved childminder, nursery or preschool to book their child's place, there's no need to apply for the funding.



Age 3 and 4 Extra hours (30 hours)

Some 3 and 4 year olds whose families are working, are entitled to an extra 15 hours of early education, this gives them a total of up to 30 hours per week.

- For working families in Staffordshire.
- A maximum of 570 hours can be taken per year:
 - 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (term time)
 - Some providers will allow parents to 'stretch' the hours, using fewer hours per week for up to 52 weeks.
- Parents choose which childminder, preschool or nursery to use - they can use more than one.



Apply online for the extra 15 hours at:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk