

2 YEAR OLDS FUNDED CHILDCARE GUIDANCE

On the Isles of Scilly there are **TWO** different Funded Early Education & Childcare offers for 2 year olds:

- 10 Hours Isles of Scilly Local Offer, and
- 15 Hours Funded Early Education & Childcare

The funding is not compulsory and it is entirely your choice whether you use it. Reasons you may use the funding are:

- Support your access to employment or training
- Enable your child's interaction with other children

10 HOURS ISLES OF SCILLY LOCAL OFFER

What is the offer?

A universal offer up to **10 hours per week** for 38 weeks of funded early education and childcare (**up to maximum of 380 hours**) with an Ofsted registered provider. For a minimum of two hours per session, hours can be split between two childcare providers.

This offer can be stretched using the hours to suit your individual family needs, subject to your provider. For example using less hours each week to spread across the whole year including holidays, rather than using the full amount each week e.g. 7.45 hours per week for 51 weeks.

Who is eligible?

Exclusively available for Parent/ Carer of a child aged two years old and are residents of the Isles of Scilly. There are no other eligibility criteria for this offer.

When can my child start receiving their funding?

Funding can be accessed immediately after you child turns two, and can be stretched/ used until your child can access their three & four year old funding (which is the term after their third birthday) up to the **maximum of 380 hours**. Please note the funding does not renew after a year, it is a maximum of 380 hours available to use from the date the child turns two and when the three & four year old funding starts.

Here are a few example scenarios based on the following dates:

Child turns two:	30 September 2022
Child turns three:	30 September 2023
Can start claiming 3&4 year old funding:	1 January 2024

1. Uses hours term time only and starts beginning of January 2023 at 10 hours per week the full 380 hours will be used by December 2023.
2. Starts claiming immediately after child turns two and wants to stretch the entitlement until 3&4 year old funding starts. There are approximately 65 weeks between these dates which would give around 5.8 hours per week of funding.
3. Starts claiming immediately after child turns two, wants term time only and to stretch until 3&4 year old funding starts. There are approximately 47 term time weeks in this period, which would give around 8 hours per week of funding.
4. Starts claiming immediately after child turns two, wants to use 10 hours per week until the funding is used. The funding would run out around the 23 June 2023.

Where can I find an Ofsted registered provider?

Details are available at: <https://scilly.gov.uk/children/pre-school-primary/childcare> or call Children & Family Services on 01720 424 496.

How do I access the funding?

If you would like to access the 10 hours Isles of Scilly Local Offer speak to your childcare provider to discuss availability. Once you have secured a place your provider will give you a **Parental Declaration Form for 2 Year Old Funding** to complete.

Once you have completed the form return it to your childcare provider along with proof of date of birth (such as Birth Certificate/ Red Book) the childcare provider will verify the date of birth and will then liaise with the Local Authority to access the funding.

What if I want to change the number of hours per week my child uses?

Speak to your provider to check availability and agree any changes. A new Parental Declaration Form for 2 Year Old Funding will need to be completed and submitted to the Council.

15 HOURS FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE OFFER

If you are eligible you can access up to **15 hours per week**, for 38 weeks, of funded early education and childcare (up to maximum of 570 hours) with an Ofsted registered provider.

You may be eligible if you live in England and receive certain benefits or some other circumstances such as the child has an EHC plan. For eligibility criteria see www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds. If you believe that you may be eligible please contact Children & Family Services and we will take you through the process.

This offer can only be accessed the term after the child's 2nd birthday.

- If your child turns two years between 1 April and 31 August, they will be eligible for two year old funding from 1 September
- If your child turns two years between 1 September and 31 December, they will be eligible for two year old funding from 1 January
- If your child turns two years between 1 January and 31 March, they will be eligible for two year old funding from 1 April

Once the Council have confirmed your entitlement to 15 Hours offer you can confirm your place with your childcare provider.

Please note that you can start accessing the 10 hours offer from your child's second birthday, if you are eligible for the 15 hours offer you can move onto that offer at the later date (earliest the 15 hours can be accessed is the term after your child's second birthday).

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Council keep a copy of the Parental Declaration Form. The childcare provider will make funding claims to the Council and the Council will make payment directly to your provider.

If a child claims more than the maximum hours per week or annual entitlement the provider(s) will charge parents for the hours your child attended in excess of their funded entitlement. We urge parents and providers to keep a record of the number of hours used to minimise the risk of over claiming.

Check with your provider what their Funded Early Education offer and fee structure is including making sure you know what their terms for 2 year old funded places, holiday and absence procedures and contract end notice periods are.