

Early Education Entitlement funding for two, three and four year olds A Brief Guide for Parents and Carers: April 2015 – March 2016

The Early Educational Entitlement

The Early Education Entitlement (EEE) free funding is available to all eligible two, three and four year olds. Please speak to your setting about eligibility for your two year old.

When can my child take up their free funding?

Four year old children are automatically eligible for a free place.

Two and three year olds become eligible the term after their 2nd or 3rd birthday as below:

A child born in the period	Will become eligible for a free place
1st April to 31st August	1st September following the child's 2 nd or 3 rd birthday
1st September to 31st December	1st January following the child's 2 nd or 3 rd birthday
1st January to 31st March	1 st April following the child's 2 nd or 3 rd birthday

Term time funding and full year funding

The 570 hours EEE must be taken over a minimum of 38 weeks a year (unless being taken in a registered Independent School).

Term time offer - The 570 hours are taken over the early year's calendar of 38 weeks a year. The parent may choose to take up to 15 hours per week of free funding.

Stretched offer - The 570 hours can be taken over 12 months. The parent will be offered up to 10/11 hours a week free funding; parents should talk to the childcare provider about how this may work at the setting.

Parental declarations - All parents / carers should complete a parental declaration or contract confirming how they will take up their EEE; this is usually reviewed termly.

Notice Periods - Parents / carers must follow the notice periods as established by the provider. Failure to provide notice to the setting will result in funding not being able to be transferred to a new provider until the notice period has been completed.

Who can deliver free places?

Any early years provider registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and who has also signed an agreement with the London Borough of Havering. The provider must have the following Ofsted grade to offer free places to two, three and four year olds:

Ofsted Grade	Two Year Old places	Three / Four Year Old places
Outstanding	Places available	Places available
Good	Places available	Places available
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	No places offered	Places available
Inadequate	No places offered	No places offered

A list of birth to five providers can be found at www.havering.gov.uk/directory. Published Ofsted grades can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>.

What do parents / carers need to know about the free funding?

- There must be no conditions of access
- There must be no fees charged for free EEE hours
- The EEE must be completely free at the point of delivery therefore no administrative or registration charges should be imposed.
- There must be clear invoicing to parents who take up more than their free EEE hours
- Charges for additional hours over the EEE entitlement are a private matter

How can I use the free funding?

- No EEE session can be longer than 10 hours or shorter than 2.5 hours
- The EEE cannot be taken before 7am or after 7pm
- The full 15 hours can be taken over no fewer than 2 days at a maximum of two providers

Children who move or start late in the term

Parents / carers will receive funding from their child from the Monday. However, if a parent joins a provider and this results in the breach of an existing parental declaration, then the parent may be liable for the EEE cost for the remainder of the contract length. Parents should adhere to any notice period required by the EEE provider.

School admissions

Where children receive their free EEE through a School Nursery, any hours accessed outside of this through another Early Education and Childcare Provider will be at full cost to the parent / carer.

Deferred Entry to School

All children must start a Reception School class from the September after their 4th birthday. However, the School Admissions Code allows parents of children who are offered a place at a school before they are of statutory school age to defer their child's entry until later in the school year. For further details regarding deferred admission to Reception, please contact Schools Admissions on 01708 434600 or email schooladmissions@havering.gov.uk.

What curriculum is used for early year settings?

All early years providers are governed by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) frame work available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Where do I go if I am not happy about the administration of my child's free funding?

The Local Authority has put into place an appeals procedure for parents who are not satisfied that their child has received their free funding in the correct way, this is outlined in the Detailed Parent Guide, which can be found on the Havering Website at www.havering.gov.uk/eee

Where can I find out more information?

Please contact the Family Information Service (FIS) for information, advice and guidance about children, young people, parents and professionals on 0800 678 1991; email fis@havering.gov.uk or go to www.havering.gov.uk/directory.