

The background features a collage of passport stamps and a child's face. In the top left, there is an oval stamp that says "Apply now" and "Passport for 2 years". In the top right, there is a circular stamp with a child's face and the number "2". In the bottom left, there is a rectangular stamp that says "15 HRS", "Passport for 2 years", and "FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION". In the bottom right, there is a circular stamp that says "15 HRS", "ST HELENS", and "FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION".

Is your 2-year-old entitled to up to 15 hours of early education with a childcare provider in St Helens?

What is it?

It's an early education placement that is funded by the Government. Your child can take a place at either of the following registered childcare providers dependent on their availability:

- school nursery or pre-school
- private nursery or pre-school
- childminder

Check the term dates, application deadlines, eligibility and more at www.sthelens.gov.uk/passportfor2

Can I claim a funded place?

Your 2-year-old can get free childcare if you live in England and get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- Child Tax Credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

2-year-olds can also get free childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have a statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

If you're a non-EEA citizen who cannot claim benefits

Your 2-year-old may get free childcare if you are getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:

- claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')
- been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')

A 2-year-old you care for may also get free childcare if your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and you have any of the following:

- leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' on family or private life grounds
- support from your local council because you have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan
- the right to live in the UK because you're the main carer of a British citizen (known as a 'Zambrano Carer')

You may have to pay for extra costs like meals, nappies, or trips dependent on the childcare provider you choose. Not all providers will make these charges.

How it works

If you are entitled to a funded placement for your 2-year-old, St Helens Borough Council will send you a 'Passport for 2s' document either by post or by email. You simply take it, or forward the document by email to your childcare provider and they will exchange it for 15 hours of early education which can be taken flexibly dependent on the childcare provider that you choose.

Check the term date application deadlines, eligibility and more at www.sthelens.gov.uk/passportfor2



Childcare
Choices

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

