A good time to be 2

“My son’s learning has come on leaps and bounds”
Midlothian parent
A good time to be 2 is Midlothian Council’s programme for free early learning and childcare places for eligible 2-year-olds. Eligible children will receive up to 600 hours of early learning and childcare in an early years setting. This works out as 15 hours over the 3 school terms.

Eligible children will receive for eligible 2-year-olds. Learning and childcare places programme for free early learning and childcare is Midlothian Council’s 'A good time to be 2'.

When is it available?
Early learning and childcare sessions can be offered as 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions. Some settings are able to offer extended sessions over 2 or 3 days.

Please visit our website www.midlothian.gov.uk/early-learning for full list of providers to discuss available options.

Where are the places available?
We have a variety of settings delivering our ‘A good time to be 2’ places, these include Midlothian Sure Start, partnership nurseries, playgroups, childminders and Hawthorn Children and Families Centre.

Please note that more settings are being added. Please check the website for the most up to date list.
If you have a particular request then please contact us at Early Learning and Childcare Team on 0131 271 3400 or visit www.midlothian.gov.uk/early-learning

How will 'A good time to be 2' place support my child?
- Your child will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of play experiences that will support their learning and development
- Staff in the settings will be available to discuss with you, your child's interests and any questions you may have about your child’s development
- You will have the opportunity to share your child's learning from home and be involved in your child's learning in the setting
- Staff will support with your child’s transition to nursery and share your child’s learning with their new setting.

Is my 2 year old eligible?
Criteria for 'A good time to be 2' is set by The Scottish Government. For full eligibility criteria please see information on back of leaflet.

How can I apply?
Application forms are available on our website and from Early Learning and Childcare Team on 0131 271 3400. Alternatively you can pop into any of our early years settings and pick up a leaflet.

Completed application forms should be returned to Early Learning and Childcare Team along with the following supporting documentation:
- Evidence of benefits you receive e.g. award letter
- Proof of child's age e.g. birth certificate or passport
- Proof of your current address e.g. council tax letter, utility bill or other letter

Please ensure that you send us all pages of your universal credit including the page which details your take-home pay amount.

Please note that securing a place for your two-year-old child does not have any bearing on your child’s 3-5 year old funded place. You will need to submit a separate application form for a 3-5 year old early learning and childcare nursery place.

“It makes me and my daughter both feel more confident, the difference is unbelievable!”
Midlothian parent
Children may be eligible if they live in a household where a resident parent/carer is in receipt of one or more of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance (Income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income related)
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £16,105* per year
- Maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £6,420* per year
- Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit (When your take-home pay is less than £610 p/m)

or if your child:

- Is looked after
- Is under a kinship care order
- Lives with a parent appointed guardian

*The income threshold for WTC and CTC can vary annually.

Once a child has been allocated a place they will remain entitled to this even if their parent/carer becomes employed or their situation with their parent/carer changes.

Please note it may not be possible to guarantee a place in your first choice. If you are requesting a setting for a particular reason then please ensure you detail this on your application form.

Early Learning and Childcare Team on: 0131 271 3400
Email: earlyyears@midlothian.gov.uk
Visit: www.midlothian.gov.uk/early-learning