



free play and learn

for 2-3 year olds

“Taking Thomas to ‘play and learn’ has changed our lives! He absolutely loves it and it’s been fantastic for us to see the changes in him - we’re over the moon!”

[Thomas’ mam]



**Please return or email to:
Childcare Places Team
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UJ
childcare@durham.gov.uk**

What is 'free play and learn' for 2-3 year olds?

It's free childcare for 2-3 year olds, to 'play and learn' at a local nursery or with a childminder. If you are eligible, your child could receive 15 hours a week - term time only, or 11 hours a week, 50 weeks a year.

To find out about childcare options in your area, please contact Families Information Service on **0800 917 2917**, to find out who offers play and learn sessions in your area, please visit www.countydurhamfamilies.info

Is my child eligible for a free place?

You can apply for a free place, if you receive one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Support for a 'Looked After' child
- Child Tax Credit – income below £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Employment and Support Allowance - income related
- Disability Living Allowance [child]
- Working Tax Credits and earn no more than £16,190
- Current Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan [child]
- Left care through Special Guardianship, or an Adoption, or Residence Order

When could my child start?

If you qualify for free childcare, your child could take up their 'play and learn' sessions, the term after their 2nd birthday.

How do I apply?

Complete the application form and post it to the address overleaf, or drop it off at your local Children's Centre. There are lots of people who will be happy to help you apply and answer any questions you may have e.g. your Health Visitor, local Nursery or Children's Centre.

For further help or information, please contact Kelly, Linzi or Linda in the Childcare Places Team on **03000 268 913**

Application Form

To find out if you qualify for free play and learn, please complete the details below and return to the address overleaf, your local children's centre, nursery or health visitor.

Applicant's Details

title: relationship to child:

name:

address:

postcode:

home tel: mobile:

dob: / / national insurance no:

national asylum support no :

Child's Details

name:

dob: / / gender: male female

Is your child in receipt of SEN Statement/Educational Health & Care Plan DLA

Proof of documentation to be included with the application form

Under the care of the Local Authority - looked after Special Guardianship, Adoption or Residence Order

Name of Preferred School, Nursery School, Childminder or Nursery

name [if known]:

address:

postcode:

Please note: once you receive confirmation of entitlement, you will need to contact them directly to organise your place.

I certify that the information given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I hereby give consent to a check via Durham County Council and the Department for Education's eligibility checking system. (Communication with Durham County Council may be subject to monitoring and recording). This information is also used to engage Children's Centre Services. Information about children's progress will be collected for evaluation purposes. The information requested will be held securely and will be only disclosed to staff in the Local Authority or Partner Agencies who have right of access. As well as, where appropriate, to the Department of Education and Ofsted. Durham County Council processes all personal data in accordance with the equipment of the Data Protection Act 1998.

signature _____ date ____/____/____

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