If you think you may qualify for a funded early education childcare place, then you can check this by contacting either:

- A Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) Early Years provider (Pre-school, Childminder, Nursery) who will check eligibility by requesting to see evidence of receipt of benefits (see overleaf) and in addition, evidence of your child’s date of birth.

- A Local Authority Children’s Centre who will use an online eligibility checker with your National Insurance number, Date of Birth and Surname.

Once eligibility is confirmed you will then be required to complete a 2 year old early education place application form with your chosen setting.

It is important that you register with your Early Years setting at the start of term.

2 year old Early Education Places can be accessed through any provider (Early Years providers include playgroups/ pre-schools, Childminders, day care settings. Children’s Centres) providing they are registered with the Local Authority (LA) and the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

Coventry Family Information Service (FIS) holds up to date information on all early years’ settings that are registered to provide Early Education Places. They will help you to find a suitable place.

They can be contacted by calling (024) 7683 4373 – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 09:00 to 17:00 and Friday from 09:00 to 16:30. Alternatively you can visit their website http://coventry.fsd.org.uk.

If you would like an appointment to discuss your childcare needs please give FIS a call on (024) 7683 4373.

For more detailed information on the 2 year old funding please visit: http://www.coventry.gov.uk/2yearoldfunding
Do you have a 2 year old?
And are you in receipt of any of the following UK benefits?
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit (GPC)
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA) Support
- Universal credit – this includes:
  - Working Tax Credit with a household income of less than £16,190
  - Working Tax Credit relating to a disability
  - Income Support (IS)
  - Job Seekers’ Allowance (Income-Based)
  - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR)
  - Child Tax Credit (CTC) with a household income of less than £16,190

Or do you have or care for a child who falls into one of these categories?
- Is in the care of the local authority
- Has left care through special guardianship, adoption or residence order
- Has a current statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care plan.
- Attracts disability living allowance
- Has a Child Protection plan
- Is being supported through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process

Yes - then you are eligible for a funded early education childcare place

How this funding can be accessed:
Your 2 year old could access up to 570 hours of early education and childcare funding.
- Up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year term time
or
- In some settings you may be able to stretch your 2 year old funding to cover school holidays, for example use 11 hours over 50 weeks of the year. (Please note that you may not receive the full entitlement if you use the stretch option)

The funding starts the term following your child’s second birthday:
- A child born between 1st April and 31st August can access childcare from 1st September
- A child born between 1st September and 31st December can access childcare from 1st January
- A child born between 1st January and 31st March can access childcare from 1st April

Why should you consider using childcare for your two year old?
Childcare is good for children. Research has shown that good quality early education can:
- Improve children’s development, for example their communication skills
- Help them learn to socialise with other children and make friends
- Help them begin to get ready for school
- Give them access to exciting places to play and new activities including messy play that you might not want to do at home!
Childcare is also good for families – it can give you a bit more time to spend with your other children, take up a college course, or go back to work. Also, you can pick up ideas of what to do with your child at home and how you can help them grow and learn.