

# Free childcare for two-year-old looked after children



Quality childcare  
15 hours a week  
38 weeks per year



## What is available?

London Borough of Merton may be able to pay for your two-year-old foster child to attend a preschool, a nursery or a childminder.

The funding would be for up to 15 hours of childcare a week for 38 weeks of the year. For example, this could be 3 sessions of 5 hours or 3 hours a day for 5 days each week. Other options may be available, depending on your needs and what a childcare provider can offer.

The 2-year funded place will be in the London Borough of Merton.

## How will the child I'm looking after benefit?

Attending good quality childcare at the age of two has been found to give children a good start in life, making them more likely to enjoy and do well at school.

Children who enjoy good quality childcare can:

- Become more confident
- Play and join in with other children
- Develop their language skills
- Learn new things

## **Where can I get a place?**

The council keeps an approved list of childminders, preschools and private nurseries in Merton that can provide funded places for 2-year-olds. When you contact us, we will confirm yours and the child's details, discuss your individual needs and then contact the approved childcare providers in order to arrange a place for the child.

## **What happens when the child I'm looking after turns three?**

When the child turns three, they will be able to take up a funded nursery place for 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year in a school nursery class, a preschool, a day nursery or with a childminder. They will be able to go to nursery for free right up until they start school. The child you are looking after may be able to stay where they have been when they were two.

## **How do I get a place?**

You may be able to get a free childcare place if you meet one of the following criteria:

- A Merton looked after child living with a Merton approved Foster Carer
- A Merton looked after child living with an approved Foster Carer from a neighbouring borough
- A looked after child from a neighbouring borough living with a Merton approved Foster Carer

The 2-year funded place will be in the London Borough of Merton.

# How can I find out more?

Simply contact the Supporting Families Team:

## Email

[SupportingFamiliesAdministrator@merton.gov.uk](mailto:SupportingFamiliesAdministrator@merton.gov.uk)

## Telephone

020 8545 3261

