

Withdrawn

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Department for Work and Pensions

Work Programme Live Running Memo

To: Work Programme Providers

Cc: Account Managers
Account Executives
Senior Performance Managers
Performance Managers

From: Work Programmes Division

Memo Serial Number: 124

Date: 03 July 2013

Subject: Free Early Learning for Two Year Olds

Action: For Information

Timing: Immediate

Background

In September 2010 all three and four-year-olds became entitled to 15 hours per week of free early education.

The Government has now committed to extending this to around 20 per cent of the least advantaged two-year-olds, around 130,000 children from September 2013.

This memo is to provide you with information of the change.

Summary

In May 2012, the Government confirmed that two-year-olds living in households meeting the eligibility criteria for free school meals will be entitled to free early learning places, along with children who are looked after by the state.

From September 2013, 130,000 of the least advantaged two year olds will be eligible for 15 hours of free early learning per week.

From September 2014 this entitlement will be extended further to reach around 260,000 two year old children from low income families.

The aim is to:

- Improve education for young children
- Improve employment prospects by providing free childcare; and
- Provide more jobs in childcare.

Over the next few weeks local authorities will be issuing letters to eligible parents inviting them to take up the free early learning place for their child.

To find out more about the early learning for two year olds, please visit the Department for Education website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/delivery/free%20entitlement%20to%20early%20education/b0070114/eefortwoyearolds/early-learning-for-disadvantaged-two-year-olds>

This is a change to provider guidance.

Further Information Contact Details

All enquiries on the subject of this memo should be raised with your Performance Manager in the first instance; they will endeavour to provide you with an answer as soon as possible.

Regards

Work Programmes Division Enquiries Team