

Childcare Entitlement Videos Transcripts

Extended Eligibility Criteria

Hello my name is Gemma Ferguson and I am the Early Years Engagement Officer as part of the Early Years Team at Swindon Borough Council. I would like to talk to you today about the Extended Eligibility Criteria.

The DFE- Department of Education have extended the eligibility for the free early education entitlement for the most disadvantaged 2 year old children. This applies to the following groups of children where they meet equivalent income requirements;

1. Children of Zambrano Carers- A Zambrano carer is the carer of a British Citizen child but is not a British Citizen themselves. Requiring the carer to leave the UK due to their immigration status would also mean the child cannot live in the UK.

There are also 5 Non-Economic criteria's that have to be met for a 2 year old to be eligible for a free early education place when a person is claiming Zambrano status. The carer must not be;

- A British Citizen or an exempt person
 - The child must be a British Citizen
 - The carer must be a direct relative or legal guardian of the child
 - They must have primary responsibility for the care of the child. Parental care can be shared between 2 relatives
 - There are no other members of the carers family in the UK or European economic area that can look after the child
2. Children of families with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' with the right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
 3. Children of Subset Failed Asylum Seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999- 'The 1999 Act'.

The Assessing income to be eligible includes checking one of the following or alternative evidence:

- P60
- Pay Slip
- Letter from Employer or a letter from a Bank

Alternative evidence needed to be provided to access eligibility for a free place for children of families with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' are Evidence of right to remain in the UK under Article 8:

- A letter from Home Office granting leave to remain in the UK together with a biometric residence card or BRC card.

Assessing eligibility for a free place for refused Asylum Seekers

To qualify for Section 4 support, refused Asylum Seekers must be destitute and meet a narrow set of criteria. The supports consists of accommodation and £35.39 pence a week via a pre-paid visa card (ASPEN card). If the child is in a family receiving support under Section 4 the child is entitled to a an early education place as long as there is evidence of support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999:

- Letter from the Home Office confirming Section 4 support
- Valid ASPEN card

If you would like more information about the Extended Eligibility Criteria, please call my mobile on 07812759534 or please call the council main switchboard on Swindon 01793 445500 or please send an email to earlyeducation@swindon.gov.uk (EY&CBrokerage@swindon.gov.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today and I look forward to hearing from you.