



Being Two in Islington



Do you have a two year old?

Being two is an important and exciting time in your child's life.

Two year olds are changing all the time. They are learning new things every day as they play and explore the world around them. It can be an emotional rollercoaster being two!

If you look after a two year old you will know how much fun it is – and also how challenging it can be.

This leaflet tells you about some of the services and activities available in Islington to help you to make the most of this precious time in your child's life.

Free children's centre activities for you and your two year old

A warm welcome awaits you at your local Sure Start Children's Centre.

All 16 children's centres in Islington have:

- outside space for children to run, jump and explore
- lots of toys and books to play with and enjoy
- activities that you may not have at home, like 'messy play' (where children can play safely with things like cornflour, jelly, ice cubes, foam, paint, sand, water and more)

At the children's centre children and parents can:

- meet local families and make friends
- spend time playing and learning together
- enjoy activities like stay and play, cooking, gardening, songs and stories, arts and crafts, trips and outings
- gain ideas for activities to do at home together
- get support and advice from friendly staff if it's needed

Lots of children's centre activities are particularly aimed at two year olds and their parents. They are all designed to help you make the most of this precious year and support your child's development as they learn and grow.

You will also find services for adults, for example, parenting courses, English classes, health and wellbeing sessions, and support finding employment. Often a free crèche will be provided.

For more information and to find your nearest children's centre, visit www.islington.gov.uk/childrenscentres or phone the **Family Information Service** on **020 7527 5959**

Free part time early education places for two year olds

From September 2013, some two year olds from low income families are entitled to a free part time early education place at a nursery or with a childminder. Children can access up to 15 hours per week of high quality education and care. Early learning supports children to:

- have lots of fun and learn while they are playing
- make new friends and be part of a group
- gain independence and confidence
- develop their speech and language

It can also give parents time to study, volunteer, or look for work or training. To find out if your child is eligible, visit www.islington.gov.uk/freearlylearning2 or ask at your local children's centre.

If you are not eligible for one of the free places but would like some childcare, a wide range of early years education and childcare places are provided by the council, schools, community organisations, private nurseries and childminders.

For more information about childcare options visit our online Family Directory: www.islington.gov.uk/familydirectory or contact Islington's **Family Information Service** on **020 7527 5959**.



Health and Education Review for two year olds

As young children grow, it is important to check on how they are developing to make sure that they have everything they need to get the best possible start in life. There are currently two different reviews of children's development at aged 2.

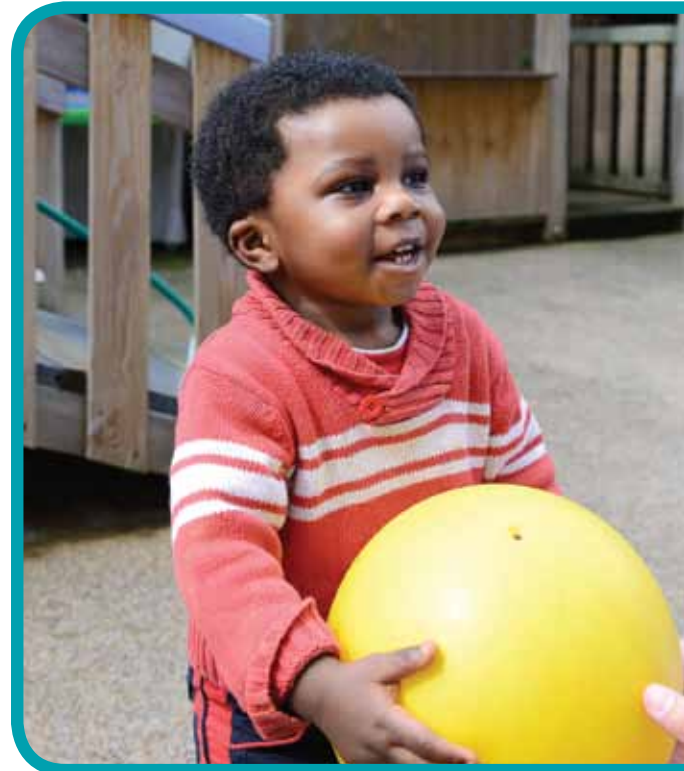
One review has a health focus and is carried out by a Health Visitor or Family Health Advisor. The other has an educational focus and is carried out by the child's nursery or childminder. There are lots of similarities between the two reviews. They both look at how the child is developing physically, socially, emotionally and in their communication and language.

In Islington we are beginning to develop a joint review for two year olds that will cover both health and education. This will mean that:

- parents will have a whole picture of how their child is doing through the sharing of information between Health and Education
- parents will not need to attend two reviews or answer the same questions twice
- parents will be fully involved in reviewing their children's learning and development
- if a child needs extra support, health and education professionals can work together from the start in order to help them

Not all two year olds will have a joint review this year. If your child is going to have a joint review, you will hear about it from your child's nursery or childminder.

If you would like to know more about the joint review, ask at your child's nursery or speak to your Health Visitor or Family Health Advisor.



Do you need this information in another language or reading format such as Braille, large print, audio or Easy Read?

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