



Accessing the early entitlements: rules for families from Ukraine

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that children arriving in the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Homes for Ukraine (sponsorship) Scheme will be able to access the DfE's free early education entitlements if they meet the existing eligibility criteria:

Two-year-old scheme

Under current government guidance, the 15-hour free early education entitlement for two-year-olds is accessible to families on low incomes in receipt of certain income support benefits, including Universal Credit.

The DfE has confirmed that families who have travelled from Ukraine can apply for Universal Credit from day one, as they are exempt from the Habitual Residence Test, which normally requires people to prove that UK, Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man are their main home and that they have a 'right to reside'.

It added: "The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) aims to process all claims in a five-week assessment period. If an individual does not have a National Insurance number when they apply for Universal Credit, DWP will also aim to issue that within five weeks.

"This means that Ukrainian families will be able to apply for the 15-hour free early education entitlements for two-year-olds in the same way that other families on low incomes in receipt of Universal Credit do so. As part of the Eligibility Checking Service, local authorities will be able to assess these applications based on a copy of their Universal Credit statement or award letter."

Three- and four-year-old scheme

The universal 15-hour entitlement for three- and four-year-olds is available to all families, regardless of whether they are in work and their income level.