

Connecting Early Learning and Childcare

Guide for Parents



All about Early Learning and Childcare
in North Ayrshire



Introduction

This booklet aims to provide you with information about early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire.

The annual entitlement to early learning and childcare (ELC) will be 1140 hours for all three and four year olds and eligible two-year olds.

Parents have the choice to use their ELC entitlement at any local authority or funded provider meeting the National Standard.

Please see appendix 1 for a list and link to all funded providers, including [childminders](#).

Throughout this document the terms:

- Parent refers to both parents and carers.
- Funded provider refers to private and voluntary providers, and childminders that are in contract to deliver ELC on behalf of the Council.
- Blended placement refers to your choice to split your 1140 hour entitlement with more than one provider.

Your Questions Answered

What does this mean for me?

You will be entitled to 1140 hours of ELC if you have a child aged 3-5 years. You could also be entitled to this if you have a 2-year-old child, and you meet certain eligibility criteria which is detailed on Page 8.

You can choose to take this in different ways:

- Over full days/half days or a combination of both.
- A blended model over two providers.
- With a funded provider or childminder only.

Our funded providers, which include childminders, can offer a further range of flexible options. Please see appendix 1 for a list and link to all funded providers, including childminders.

How will the funded sessions work?

To meet the needs of our families and carers there will be three models of delivery available in North Ayrshire Council ELC establishments.

Model 1

These settings will be open from 8:00am – 6:00pm for 48 weeks per year.

Parents can choose to have either:

Full year (48 weeks) – 23.75 hours per week

- 5 sessions per week- either mornings or afternoons
8.00am – 12.45pm or 1.15 pm – 6.00pm
Or
- 5 sessions per week over 2.5 days – all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning or Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and Friday.

8.00am – 5.30pm (Full days)

8.00am – 12.45pm or 1.15 pm – 6.00pm (half days)

Term time (38 weeks) - 28.5 hours per week

- 6 sessions per week - 1 full day and either 4 mornings or 4 afternoons
8.00am – 5.30pm (Full days)
8.00am – 12.45pm or 1.15 pm – 6.00pm (half day)
NOTE: An additional 12 sessions can also be accessed throughout the term by arrangement with the Manager of the establishment.
Or
- 10 sessions (30 hours per week) - 9.00am – 3.00pm

NOTE: 9am-3pm and 5 sessions over 2.5 days pattern are not available is not available in any of the provisions with two-year-olds or in Lamlash or Springside Early Years Classes.

This model is available at the following establishments:

Locality	Establishment Name	Provision for 2-5 year olds?
Garnock Valley	Dalry Early Years Centre	Yes
	Beith Primary Early Years Class	
	Garnock Community Campus	Yes
	St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class	Yes
Three Towns	Stanley Primary Early Years Class	
	St Peter's Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	Springvale Early Years Centre	Yes
	Caledonia Primary Early Years Class	
	Hayocks Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	Glencairn Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	Ardeer Primary Early Years Class	
Irvine	Annick Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	Woodlands Primary Early Years Class	
	Loudoun-Montgomery Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	Castlepark Early Years Centre	Yes
	St John Ogilvie Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	New Irvine nursery (date to be confirmed)	Yes
	Springside Early Years Centre	
Kilwinning	Abbey Primary Early Years Class	
	Kilwinning Early Years Centre	Yes
	St Luke's Primary Early Years Class	
North Coast	Largs Early Years Centre	Yes

	Fairlie Primary Early Years Class	
Arran	Lamlash Primary Early Years Class	

Model 2

These settings will be open from 8:45am – 4:30pm for 38 weeks per year (term time).
Parents can choose to have:

Term Time (38 weeks) - 17.5 hours per week

- 5 session per week - either mornings or afternoons
8.45am – 12.15pm or 1.00pm – 4.30pm
NOTE: Parents choosing this model will then have the option to have 12.5 funded hours per week of ELC with a funded provider or childminder of their choice.
Parents should arrange these hours directly with the funded provider, who will advise them of their availability.

This model is available at the following establishments:

Locality	Establishment Name	Provision for 2-5 year olds
Garnock Valley	Moorpark Primary Early Years Class	
Three Towns	Mayfield Primary Early Years Class	
	St John's Primary Early Years Class	
	Winton Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	West Kilbride Primary Early Years Class	
Irvine	Elderbank Primary Early Years Class	
	Lawthorn Primary Early Years Class	
	Dreghorn Primary Early Years Class	
	St Mark's Primary Early Years Class	
Kilwinning	Corsehill Primary Early Years Class	Yes
	Blacklands Primary Early Years Class	

Model 3

These settings will be open from 9.00am – to 3.00pm for 38 weeks per year (term time) 30 hours per week.

This model is available at the following establishments:

Locality	Establishment Name
Garnock Valley	Gateside Primary Early Years Class
North Coast	Skelmorlie Primary Early Years Class

	Cumbrae Primary Early Years Class
Arran	Shiskine Primary Early Years Class
	Pirnmill Primary Early Years Class
	Kilmory Primary Early Years Class
	Corrie Primary Early Years Class

When will my child be able to access the funded hours?

All three and four year olds and eligible two-year olds can access the funded hours in the term after your child's qualifying birthday.

The table below details when your child will be able to access their entitlement:

Birthday Month	Eligible Month
01 March 2022 – 31 August 2022 inclusive	August – Term 1 (Autumn Term)
01 September 2022 – 31 December 2022 inclusive	January – Term 2 (Spring Term)
01 January 2023 – 28 February 2023 inclusive	April – Term 3 (Summer Term)

Can I choose some funded sessions with an ELC establishment and the remainder with a childminder?

Yes, this is called a blended model. Parents should indicate their preference on the online application form and discuss this with the provider during registration month. All parents blending between a local authority establishment and a funded provider must have a minimum of 2 sessions in the local authority establishment.

Can my child attend more than just the funded sessions?

Yes, you can purchase additional unfunded sessions from a funded provider or childminder. Any additional charges and payments would be arranged directly.

Please see appendix 1 for a list and link to all funded providers, including childminders.

Currently the facility to purchase additional hours in North Ayrshire Council establishments is not available.

What about meals?

In all North Ayrshire Council establishments and funded providers, three and four year olds and eligible two-year olds attending a funded session are entitled to a free meal.

In North Ayrshire Council establishments, meals will be provided as follows:

	Lunch	Light tea
Model 1		
Morning children	✓	
Afternoon children		✓
Full day children	✓	✓
Model 2		
Morning children	✓	
Afternoon children	✓	
Model 3		
All day children	✓	



How do I apply for a childcare place?

For two year olds:

Applications for eligible 2 year olds places can be submitted throughout the year but no sooner than four weeks before their second birthday.

To apply for a 2 year old place in a local authority establishment, parents should complete the online application form at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-years, this also includes applications for blended placements. If parents/carers choose to use all their funded hours with a funded provider or childminder they should contact them directly to discuss availability of places prior to completing the application.

All 2-year-old children who are entitled through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 require to be verified as eligible prior to a place being confirmed and allocated.

Your 2 year old child may be eligible if you receive one or more of these benefits:

- Income support.
- *Income based job seekers allowance.
- *Income based employment and support allowance.
- Incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.
- State pension credit.
- *Child tax credit but NOT working tax credit, with annual household income below £16,480.
- *Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit with annual household income below £7,500.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- *Universal Credit – Earned Income (take home pay) below £625 per month.

*Income thresholds for these benefits vary annually

A funded place may also be available if your child is, or may be subject to:

- A Kinship Care Order.
- A Special Guardianship Order.
- Looked after by a local council e.g.
 - Care experienced (foster care).
 - A Compulsory Supervision Order at home.
 - In North Ayrshire, this also includes children who are **currently** on the Child Protection Register.
- A child whose parent is “care experienced” (previously known as “looked after and accommodated”).

Your Health Visitor or ELC Support Officer can offer advice and information regarding eligibility.

- ELC Support Officer - 01294 324067
- ELC Contact Centre – 01294 324942
- North Ayrshire ELC mailbox - earlylearningchildcare@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

For three to five year olds:

There will be a formal period of registration each year for all 3 and 4 year old places. This will commence on the first day in February until the last day in February each year. Applications received after February will still be considered but there will be a reduced choice of establishments and patterns available.

To apply for an early years place in a local authority establishment, parents should complete the online application form at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-years, this also includes applications for blended placements. If parents choose to use all their funded hours with a funded provider or childminder they should contact them directly to discuss availability of places.

NOTE: If your child is allocated a place in an Early Years Class where there is an associated primary school, there is no automatic right to a place in the primary school.

North Ayrshire Council ELC establishments, funded providers and childminders all offer a variety of provision for children aged 2-5 years. The application process provides an opportunity to choose a model that suits your individual requirements.



Do children already accessing ELC have to re-apply each year?

Children returning to North Ayrshire Council establishments are automatically allocated a place and pattern for the following year. For blended models this would require to be discussed with all providers involved.

If a parent wishes to move their returning child to a different local authority provision at the start of the new academic session, the existing provider must be notified, and a new online application should be submitted.

If the child is moving to a funded provider, they should check a place is available and make an application directly.

Can I move establishments during the academic year?

If your child is moving to another local authority provision an online application should be submitted. This must be discussed with your existing provider and at least one months' notice given before the changeover date.

If the child is moving to a funded provider, they should check a place is available and make an application directly. This must be discussed with both providers and at least one months' notice given before the changeover date.

How are places allocated?

When you complete your application form you will be asked to prioritise your choice of five establishments. If your application for a place is not allocated in the establishment of your first choice, then your application will be subsequently considered for your second, third, fourth or fifth choice.

In the event that we are unable to accommodate any of your choices, we will allocate an alternative place for your child which is the closest establishment to your home postcode (unless you have indicated otherwise on your form).

Children who do not receive their first choice establishment will be placed on their waiting list. If the parent is offered a place and declines, their child will then be removed from the waiting list for that establishment. Any child remaining on the waiting list who was not offered a place will be prioritised ahead of new applications in the following academic year.

When you complete your application form you will be asked to prioritise your choice of pattern. If your first choice of pattern is not available, then your application will be subsequently considered for your second, third choice etc. An allocation of a place does not guarantee a pattern of attendance, patterns will be subject to a randomised selection process if required.

All applications, received by the end of February, will be priority banded and processed at an admissions panel. Parents will be contacted by the establishment no later than April, when they will be notified of their allocated establishment, pattern of attendance and start date.

Parent will be required to provide proof of address and a copy of their child's birth certificate prior to starting.

North Ayrshire Council has a duty to ensure that all eligible children are prioritised when allocating places. The following priorities will be applied to the decision-making process:

Priority 1

Children in need as defined by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 or children with complex additional support for learning needs as defined by the Educational (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004.

- Looked after by a local council (Foster Care or Compulsory Supervision Order)
- The subject of a kinship care order
- The subject of a guardianship order
- Parent who is 'care experienced'
- Child who meets the conditions of Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

In North Ayrshire this also includes children who are **currently** on the Child Protection Register.

Priority 2

- All eligible two-year-olds living within the boundary of North Ayrshire.
- Deferred entry children including those who have been assessed as benefitting from an additional year and those born in January or February.
- Pre School children with a sibling in the same School or Nursery.

Priority 3

- All pre-school children living within the boundary of North Ayrshire.
- Children with an identified developmental/additional support need where support has been identified and provided by more than one agency

Priority 4

- Ante pre-school children with a sibling in the same school or nursery living within the boundary of North Ayrshire.
- Children who have previously received a period of support through a Request for Assistance from a HSCP professional in the past 12 months.

Priority 5

- All ante pre-school Children living within the boundary of North Ayrshire.

Priority 6

- All Eligible 2-year-olds living out with the North Ayrshire boundary area.
- All pre-school children living out with the North Ayrshire boundary area.

Priority 7

- All ante pre-school children living out with the North Ayrshire boundary area.

Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Application Process Timeline for Parents/Carers

Date	Action
1 st day of February	Funded Provider applications open. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If this is your choice of Early years Provision, then please contact the Nursery or Childminder directly.
	Local Authority online applications open
Arranged individually be provider	Funded Provider applications close
No later than April	Funded Providers will issue you a letter confirming your child's place, pattern and start date.
Last day of February	Local Authority online application closes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please note: Applications received after February will have a reduced choice of establishments and patterns.
Last day of March	Local Authority establishments will issue you a letter confirming your child's place, pattern and start date. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be asked to confirm your acceptance with the Nursery which will allow the process of enrolment to begin.• When you enrol you will be asked to provide proof of address and your child's Birth Certificate as evidence.

Is my child entitled to a continued nursery place if their entry to school is deferred?

Parents of children whose birth date is in January or February can choose to defer their child's entry to Primary 1. Funding is available to cover the cost of the early years place.

Parents of children whose birth date is in August (from school commencement date onwards) to December can choose to defer their child's entry to Primary 1. To apply for an additional year of funding, an application to defer should be completed. This is available from your early years establishment or funded provider including childminders. If the request is granted, the nursery place will be fully funded for an additional year. If the request is declined, parents still have a legal right to defer entry to school for their child, however this will not be funded.

When will the nurseries be closed?

The nursery closure days are listed in:

Appendix 2 – Model 1 - Full year establishments (including Arran)

Appendix 3 – Model 2 & 3 - Term Time establishments (including Arran)



Appendix 1 – All establishments and Funded providers

	Local Authority Establishment	Address	Telephone
1	Abbey Primary Early Years	Claremont Crescent, KILWINNING KA13 7HG	01294 552251
2	Ardeer Primary Early Years	Clark Crescent, STEVENSTON KA20 3LZ	01294 469785
3	Annick Primary Early Years	Bensley Rise IRVINE, KA11 1BQ	01294 211654
4	Beith Primary Early Years	Glebe Road, BEITH KA15 1EZ	01505 502363
5	Blacklands Primary Early Years	David's Crescent, KILWINNING KA13 6JJ	01294 552626
6	Caledonia Primary Early Years	Campbell Avenue, SALTCOATS KA21 5AF	01294 472092
7	Castlepark Early Years Centre	Carron Place, Castlepark, IRVINE KA12 9LQ	01294 278335
8	Corrie Primary Early Years	Corrie, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8JP	01770 810244
9	Corsehill Primary Early Years	Fergushill Road, KILWINNING KA13 7LW	01294 552418
10	Cumbrae Primary Early Years	Bute Terrace, MILLPORT KA28 0BB	01475 530343
11	Dalry Early Years Centre	Sharon Street, DALRY KA24 5DR	01294 832200
12	Dreghorn Primary Early Years	Dundonald Road, DREGHORN KA11 4AP	01294 211018
13	Elderbank Primary Early Years	St Kilda Bank, Broomlands, IRVINE KA11 1LA	01294 218632
14	Fairlie Primary Early Years	Morton Way, FAIRLIE KA290BW	01475 568441
15	Garnock Community Campus Primary Early Years	Beith Road, GLENGARNOCK KA14 3BF	01505 682685
16	Gateside Primary Early Years	Main Road, GATESIDE KA152LF	01505 502776

	Local Authority Establishment	Address	Telephone
17	Glencairn Primary Early Years	New Street, STEVENSTON KA20 3HQ	01294 464376
18	Hayocks Primary Early Years	Lumsden Place, STEVENSTON KA20 4HG	01294 465283
19	Kilmory Primary Early Years	Kilmory, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ	01770 870262
20	Kilwinning Early Years Centre	c/o Pennyburn PS, Sundrum Place, KILWINNING KA13 6SE	01294 550858
21	Lamlash Primary Early Years	MacKelvie Road, LAMLASH, Isle of Arran KA27 8NP	01770 600527
22	Largs Early Years Centre	Alexander Avenue, LARGS, KA30 9DR	01475 687687
23	Lawthorn Primary Early Years	Lochlibo Road, Lawthorn, IRVINE KA11 2AY	01294 224548
24	Loudoun-Montgomery Primary Early Years	Ayr Road, IRVINE KA12 8DF	01294 279031
25	New Irvine Nursery (directly behind Cunninghame House)	Friars Croft, IRVINE KA12 8EE	TBC
26	Mayfield Primary Early Years	Kenilworth Drive, SALTCOATS KA21 6HS	01294 465576
27	Moorpark Primary Early Years	Milton Road, KILBIRNIE KA25 7EP	01505 685386
28	Pirnmill Primary Early Years	Pirnmill, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8HP	01770 850226
29	Shiskine Primary Early Years	Shiskine, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP	01770 860207
30	Skelmorlie Primary Early Years	Innes Park Road, SKELMORLIE PA17 5BA	01475 520997
31	Springside Primary Early Years	Station Road, Springside, IRVINE KA11 3AZ	01294 211651
32	Springvale Early Years Centre	Sannox Drive, SALTCOATS KA21 6JD	01294 607025
33	Stanley Primary Early Years	Stanley Road, ARDROSSAN KA22 7DH	01294 462531
34	St Bridget's Primary Early Years,	Hagthorn Avenue, KILBIRNIE KA25 6EJ	01505 683293
35	St John Ogilvie Primary Early Years	13 Towerlands Farm Road, IRVINE KA11 1PZ	01294 218805

	Local Authority Establishment	Address	Telephone
36	St John's Primary Early Years	Morrison Avenue, STEVENSTON KA20 4HH	01294 464557
37	St Luke's Primary Early Years	Pennyburn Road, KILWINNING KA13 6LF	01294 552131
38	St Mark's Primary Early Years	Clark Drive, IRVINE KA12 0NS	01294 271167
39	St Peter's Primary Early Years	South Isle Road, ARDROSSAN KA22 7PX	01294 462554
40	West Kilbride Primary Early Years,	Hunterston Road, WEST KILBRIDE KA23 9EX	01294 829978
41	Winton Primary Early Years	Anderson Terrace, ARDROSSAN KA22 8JP	01294 464443
42	Woodlands Primary Early Years	Woodlands Avenue, IRVINE KA12 0PU	01294 279532

	Funded Providers	Address	Telephone
1	Bradshaw Nursery Ltd	22 Bradshaw Street, SALTCOATS KA21 5HR	01294 471576
2	Bright Beginnings Nursery	Guide Hall, Muir Drive, IRVINE KA12 0NR	07977-557626
3	Brodick Nursery	Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8DL	01770 302367 07903775898
4	Burnside House Nursery	Childcare Scotland, Burnside House, 24 Kilwinning Road,	01294 313180
5	Busy Bees Nursery	The James Moffat Centre, 187 Glasgow Street, ARDROSSAN KA22 8JY	01294 470892
6	Douglas Park Nursery	Cathcart Road, LARGS KA30 8JB	07971 523702
7	First Steps Nursery	216 Bank Street, IRVINE KA12 0YD	01294 212632
8	Owl and Pussycat Too Nursery	1 Montgomery Lane, Harbourside, IRVINE KA12 8PS	01294 270700

	Funded Providers	Address	Telephone
9	Playtime Early Years	Dalry Community Centre, St Margaret Avenue, DALRY KA24 4BA	01294 833288 07881 883544
10	Rainbow Childcare	19 Howgate, KILWINNING KA13 6EN	01294 557651
11	Summerlea House Nursery	Childcare Scotland, 9 Union Street, LARGS KA30 8DG	01475 672011
12	The Yellow Brick Road Early Years Centre	St Columbas Church Hall, 13 Glasgow Street, KILBIRNIE KA25 7AP	01505 227120 07796 618531
13	Treetops Nursery	83 Anderson Drive, IRVINE KA12 9HY	01294 312600
14	Treetops Too Private Nursery	Ailsa Road, SALTCOATS KA21 6LR	01294 607270
15	West Kilbride Early Years Centre	Community Centre, Corse Street, WEST KILBRIDE KA23 9AX	01294 829217
16	Whitehirst Park Private Nursery	West Doura Farm, Whitehirst Park, KILWINNING KA13 6NQ	01294 551171

Please click here for list of registered childminders:

[Childminder list.](#)

Appendix 2 – Closure Days for Full Year Establishments from August 2022

Closure days for full year establishments (excluding Arran)	
17 August 2022	In-service day
19 September	In-service day
18 November	
21 November	
22 November	In-service day
26 December	
27 December	
28 December	
29 December	
30 December	
2 January 2023	
3 January	
10 February	
13 February	
14 February	In-service day
7 April	
10 April	
1 May	
29 May	
30 May	In-service day

Closure days for full year establishments on Arran

17 August 2022	In-service day
19 September	In-service day
12 October	
13 October	
14 October	
14 November	In-service day
23 December	
26 December	
27 December	
28 December	
29 December	
30 December	
2 January 2023	
3 January	
13 February	In-service day
7 April	
10 April	
1 May	
26 May	In-service day

Appendix 3 – Closure Days for Term Time Establishments from August 2022

Closure days for term time establishments (Excluding Arran)	
17 August 2022	In-service day
19 September	In-service day
17-21 October	
18 November	
21 November	
22 November	In-service day
26 -30 December	
2 – 6 January 2023	
10 February	
13 February	
14 February	In-service day
3 – 14 April	
1 May	
29 May	
30 May	In-service
29 June – 16 August	

Closure days for term time establishments for Arran

17 August 2022	In-service day
19 September	In-service day
10-21 October	
14 November	In-service day
26 -30 December	
2 – 6 January 2023	
13 February	In-service day
3 – 14 April	
1 May	
26 May	In-service
29 June – 16 August	

This document is available in other formats such as audio tape, CD, Braille and in large print. It can also be made available in other languages on request.