

Connecting Early Learning and Childcare

Guide for Parents



All about the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in North Ayrshire



Introduction

This booklet aims to provide you with information about the changes that are happening in early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire.

In August 2021 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 Standards. 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 which allows you 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 will be entitled to either 23.75 hours per week over the full year (48 weeks), 28.5 hours over 40 weeks or 30 hours per week over term time (38 weeks). You can choose to take this in different ways over full days/half days or a combination of both or a blended model over two providers.

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), 5 sessions per week: either 5 mornings or 5 afternoons or 2.5 days per week total 23.75 hours per week.
- Term time (38 weeks), 6 sessions per week: 1 full day and either 4 morning or 4 afternoon sessions: 28.5 hours per week. This allows an additional 12 sessions to be accessed throughout the term by arrangement with the Manager of the establishment. This ensures your entitlement to 1140 hours.

Each session lasts 4.75 hours: 8.00am – 12.45 or 1.15pm – 6.00pm.

Full day sessions last 9.5 hours: 8.00am – 5.30pm (2 sessions).

There will also be a limited number of places within this model for children to attend from 9am – 3.00pm over term time (38 weeks).

You may also choose to blend your choice with a funded provider or childminder.

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	Stanecastle/Annick Primary Early Years Class
	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
	Marress House (from 2022)	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 over term time (38 weeks). Children will attend for either 5 morning sessions per week (8.45am – 12.15pm) or 5 afternoon sessions per week (1.00pm – 4.30pm). 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.

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 for children from 9.00am – to 3.00pm over term time only (38 weeks).

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
	Cumbræ 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

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

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

From August 2021, you can access the funded hours in the term after your child's 3rd birthday.

The table below details when your child will be able to access his or her entitlement:

Birthday Month	Eligible Month
01 March 2021 – 31 August 2021 inclusive	August – Term 1 (Autumn Term)
01 September 2021 – 31 December 2021 inclusive	January – Term 2 (Spring Term)
01 January 2022 – 28 February 2022 inclusive	April – Term 3 (Summer Term)

*Children must be 3 years old before taking up their funded place.

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 application form and discuss this with the provider during registration week.

Can my child attend more than just the funded sessions?

Yes, if your child attends a funded provider – a private or voluntary nursery – or a childminder. If you wish, you can purchase additional unfunded sessions from a funded provider or childminder and charges and payments for this would be arranged directly with the provider. 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?

From August 2021, all three and four year olds and eligible two-year olds are entitled to a free meal. If your child is attending a funded session this will be provided free of charge in all North Ayrshire Council establishments and funded providers.

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	✓	



When will the nurseries be closed?

Model 1 - the nursery closure days for full year delivery are listed at Appendix 2

Models 2 and 3 - these nurseries follow the North Ayrshire Council school term timetable for holidays and In Service days. For 2021-2022, this can be found at Appendix 3. The school term timetable for Arran schools can also be found at Appendix 3.

Is my two-year-old child eligible for a funded place?

Your 2 year old child may be eligible for a funded place 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 £16,105.
- *Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit with annual household income below £7,320.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Universal Credit – Earned Income below £610 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.
- Care experienced (foster care).
- A Compulsory Supervision Order at home.

In addition, from August 2020 the eligibility for ELC provision for two year olds is extended to children whose parents were “care experienced” (previously known as “looked after and accommodated”).

Your Health Visitor or local ELC establishment can offer advice and information regarding eligibility. We also have information available on [CARIS](#).

Applications for places for eligible 2 year olds can be submitted throughout the year. If your 2 year old is eligible for a funded place, they will be entitled to the same number of hours as a 3 or 4 year old – 1140 hours per annum.

What about settling in and transition between early years stages?

Funded hours will start on the first day of the school term after your child becomes eligible. To help a child to settle in and manage the transition from home to early years establishment, there may be a staggered intake over a few days or weeks at the start of each new term. Settling in sessions are arranged to meet the needs of the child or family.

Staff are very experienced in helping children to settle into their ELC establishment. However, during the settling in period, parents, or another nominated adult are asked to be available to collect a child earlier in the session on the rare occasion that this may be required.

How do I apply for a childcare place?

There will be a formal period of registration each year for all 3 and 4 year old places. In 2021 this will commence 1st February 2021 and conclude on 10th February 2021. Applications received after 10th February will still be considered but there will be a reduced choice of dates and sessions available.

To apply for an early years place in a local authority establishment, parents should complete the online application form, 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.

Parents should upload their child's birth certificate and proof of address at the time of submitting their online application.

Please 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 for the following year. For any changes to a child's current pattern this will result in the request being considered along with any new applications. 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 provider at the start of the new academic session, the existing provider must be notified, and a new application should be submitted to the new provider.

If parents move their child during the academic session, this must be agreed between providers at least one month before the changeover date.

Allocating Places

When the demand for places with a provider exceeds supply, it is necessary to have a system for deciding on the allocation of places in an equitable and transparent way.

Allocation of a place does not guarantee your choice of pattern of attendance. Attendance patterns will be balloted if required.

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

Priority 1

Children who have been identified by a range of professionals and support services. A request for assistance will be submitted and if agreed, a place within an ELC establishment will be identified through locality admissions panels.

Priority 2

Children living within the boundary of North Ayrshire whose parents wish to defer their child's entry to primary school and funding for this has been agreed by North Ayrshire Council.

Priority 3

All eligible 2-year-old children living within the boundary of North Ayrshire.

Priority 4

All eligible pre-school children living within the boundary of North Ayrshire.

Priority 5

Children in their ante pre-school year who will have a sibling in attendance at the same early years establishment either in their pre-school year or a deferred entry place.

Priority 6

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

Priority 7

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

Priority 8

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

If a class/centre is oversubscribed, a ballot will take place to allocate places and/or pattern of hours.

Ballot

A ballot may be necessary in some centres/classes in the following circumstances:

- Oversubscription of applications for four year olds
- Oversubscription of applications for three year olds
- Oversubscription for particular models of delivery

Each centre is registered with the Care Inspectorate for a maximum number of places, therefore it is not possible to satisfy all requested patterns of attendance. You will be asked to state a preferred pattern of attendance when you complete the online application form. Places and patterns of attendance will be allocated according to the allocation criteria set out in North Ayrshire Council's Admissions to Early Years Establishments.

If your application for a place is not allocated in the centre of your first choice, then your application will be subsequently considered for your second, third, fourth or fifth choice. If 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).

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 after the school start date in August (from school commencement date onwards) to December, who want to defer their child's entry to Primary 1, can apply for an additional year of nursery provision for their child. If the request is granted, the nursery place will be fully funded. If the request is not granted, parents whose child does not attain the age of 5 years on the school commencement date, still have a legal right to defer entry to school for their child, and this will not be funded.



Appendix 1 – All establishments and Funded providers

[Please click here for list of registered childminders](#)

	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	Beith Primary Early Years	Glebe Road, BEITH KA15 1EZ	01505 502363
4	Blacklands Primary Early Years	David's Crescent, KILWINNING KA13 6JJ	01294 552626
5	Caledonia Primary Early Years	Campbell Avenue, SALTCOATS KA21 5AF	01294 472092
6	Castlepark Early Years Centre	Carron Place, Castlepark, IRVINE KA12 9LQ	01294 278335
7	Corrie Primary Early Years	Corrie, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8JP	01770 810244
8	Corsehill Primary Early Years	Fergushill Road, KILWINNING KA13 7LW	01294 552418
9	Cumbrae Primary Early Years	Bute Terrace, MILLPORT KA28 0BB	01475 530343
10	Dalry Early Years Centre	Sharon Street, DALRY KA24 5DR	01294 832200
11	Dreghorn Primary Early Years	Dundonald Road, DREGHORN KA11 4AP	01294 211018
12	Elderbank Primary Early Years	St Kilda Bank, Broomlands, IRVINE KA11 1LA	01294 218632
13	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
17	Glencairn Primary Early Years	New Street, STEVENSTON KA20 3HQ	01294 464376

	Local Authority Establishment	Address	Telephone
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	Mayfield Primary Early Years	Kenilworth Drive, SALTCOATS KA21 6HS	01294 465576
26	Moorpark Primary Early Years	Milton Road, KILBIRNIE KA25 7EP	01505 685386
27	Pirnmill Primary Early Years	Pirnmill, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8HP	01770 850226
28	Shiskine Primary Early Years	Shiskine, BRODICK, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP	01770 860207
29	Skelmorlie Primary Early Years	Innes Park Road, SKELMORLIE PA17 5BA	01475 520997
30	Springside Primary Early Years	Station Road, Springside, IRVINE KA11 3AZ	01294 211651
31	Springvale Early Years Centre	Sannox Drive, SALTCOATS KA21 6JD	01294 607025
32	Stanecastle School Early Years	Burns Crescent, IRVINE KA11 1AQ	01294 211914
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
36	St John's Primary Early Years	Morrison Avenue, STEVENSTON KA20 4HH	01294 464557

	Local Authority Establishment	Address	Telephone
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
9	Playtime Early Years	Dalry Community Centre, St Margaret Avenue, DALRY KA24 4BA	01294 833288 07881 883544

	Funded Providers	Address	Telephone
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](#)

Appendix 2 – Closure Days for Full Year Establishments 2021

Closure days for full year establishments (excluding Arran)	
1 January	
4 January	
12 February	
15 February	In-service day
2 April	
5 April	
03 May	
28 May	In-service day
31 May	
17 August	In-service day
20 September	In-service day
18 November	In-service day
19 November	
22 November	
24 December	
27 December	
28 December	
29 December	
30 December	
31 December	

Closure days for full year establishments on Arran

1 January	
4 January	
15 February	In-service day
2 April	
5 April	
03 May	
28 May	In-service day
17 August	In-service day
20 September	In-service day
6 – 8 October	
15 November	In-service day
23 December	
24 December	
27 December	
28 December	
29 December	
30 December	
31 December	

Appendix 3 – Closure Days for Term Time Establishments 2021

Closure days for term time establishments (Excluding Arran)	
1 January	
4 January	
5 January	
12 February	
15 February	In-service day
2 – 16 April	
03 May	
28 May	In-service day
31 May	
18 June – 16 August	
17 August	In-service day
20 September	In-service day
11 – 15 October	
18 November	In-service day
19 November	
22 November	
24 December	
27 December	
28 December	
29 December	
30 December	
31 December	

Closure days for term time establishments for Arran

1 January	
4 January	
5 January	
6 January	
15 February	In-service day
2 – 16 April	
03 May	
28 May	In-service day
23 June – 16 August	
17 August	In-service day
20 September	In-service day
04 – 15 October	
15 November	In-service day
23 December	
24 December	
27 December	
28 December	
29 December	
30 December	
31 December	

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.