

# Early Learning and Childcare

You can get this pack in other formats such as Braille,  
audio tape or large type, and in community languages if you ask us.

اس پیک کے دیگر فارمیٹس جیسے برایل، آڈیو ٹیپ یا بڑے ٹائپ میں حاصل کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔ اگر آپ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ کسی اور کمیونٹی زبان میں بھی اسے حاصل کرنے کے لیے درخواست دیتے ہیں تو اسے بھی فراہم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

Na życzenia klienta, informacja ta moжа być udostępniona w innych językach oraz formatach.

Education and Youth Employment  
Cunninghame House  
Irvine KA12 8EE

t. 01294 310 000  
[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



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## This booklet will provide information on:

- When your child becomes eligible for early learning and childcare
- How to apply for an early learning and childcare placement in North Ayrshire
- The Admissions Policy for early learning and childcare
- What to expect from early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire Council
- Questions you may have about your child starting
- Details of all establishments in North Ayrshire
- Useful Contacts



## Early Learning and Childcare

Children enjoy attending early years centres and classes. Research shows that the education children receive in their early years helps future development.

North Ayrshire Council is committed to the provision of quality early learning and childcare. From August 2014 all 3 and 4 year-old children living in North Ayrshire are entitled to a minimum of 600 hours per year. This is usually offered over five mornings or afternoon sessions. We are however, in the process of developing more flexible options to suit the needs of parents.

There are no catchment areas for early learning and childcare and parents can apply for a place for their child in any establishment in North Ayrshire. Early learning and childcare can be accessed in centres, or early year classes attached to primary schools. The Council also works in partnership with private and voluntary providers to ensure that they have a sufficient number of places and a range of provision available to meet the needs and preferences of parents and their children.

Placement in an early years class attached to a school does not guarantee a place in the primary school. Early learning and childcare provision is non-denominational.

North Ayrshire Council also provides a number of places for children under three years. These places are allocated to children referred by Social Services, Health or Psychological Services.

Places will also be offered to eligible 2 year-old children including those who are looked after or under a kinship care order and children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits. More information can be found at: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

## When will my child become eligible for early learning and childcare?

Children will normally become eligible for a place in the month after their third birthday. However, children whose birthdays fall on, or between, 1 March and 30 June will still be entitled to a place in the following school year.

This means if your child turns three between 1 March and 30 June they will start an early years class/centre when the new session starts in August. This is in line with school starting dates.

Children with birthdays from July to February will start the month after their third birthday.

## How do I apply for an early learning and childcare place for my child?

Early learning and childcare registration takes place in late January. An advert will appear in the local press reminding you of this. You should contact the establishment of your choice, usually the one nearest your home. If you do not know where your nearest centre is you can call Childcare and Recreation Information Service (CARIS) on [0345 351 3000](tel:0345 351 3000).

At the centre you will be asked to fill in an application form and provide your child's birth certificate. You will also be asked to state your second and third choice of establishment.

You should register your child for an early learning and childcare place from the January following their second birthday.



## How are places allocated?

North Ayrshire Council has agreed that there are circumstances which will give some children priority for admission into an early years class/centre. These priorities will be used for admissions to all Council centres.

The head of the establishment will carefully consider all applications and find out which children have priority according to the 'Admissions to Early Years Establishments Policy'. Places will then be allocated according to the priorities in the policy.

All children in Priority 1 will be allocated places first then Priority 2 and so on.

Where there are insufficient places to meet the demand for an early year class/centre, difficult decisions must be made in allocating these places and a ballot will be held. There are guidelines to ensure that this is carried out in an open and fair manner.

It is not always possible to place all children in the early years class/centre of their choice.

When a child has been allocated a place in an early years class/centre they are entitled to remain there until they are of age to move to primary school. Some children move to a different early years class/centre for their pre-school year and they will have to apply for a place in the same way.

The priorities are as follows:

## Admissions to Early Learning and Childcare Establishments

### Priority 1

#### Children in Need

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 places a duty on Councils to provide support for children who are in need of care and attention. These children will be identified by a range of professionals and support services involved with children and families. When identified, an assessment is submitted to the local Early Years Partnership Forum and places will be agreed and allocated at this meeting.

#### Children with Additional Support Needs

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on Councils to provide appropriate support for children assessed as having additional support for learning needs. Places will be allocated to these children, following appropriate discussion and agreement with parents, centres and professional agencies.

## Priority 2

All children in their pre-school year living within the boundary of North Ayrshire and those children with January/ February birthdays whose parents choose to defer their child's entry to primary school.

## Priority 3

All children living within the boundary of North Ayrshire whose parents choose to defer their child's entry to primary school and this has been agreed by North Ayrshire Council Education & Youth Employment.

## Priority 4

Children in their ante-pre-school year residing within North Ayrshire. Places will be allocated by month of birth in accordance with the table T1 of the Admissions to Early Years Establishments Policy.

## Priority 5

Children in their ante-pre-school year residing in North Ayrshire.

## Priority 6

Children in their pre-school year residing outwith North Ayrshire.

## Priority 7

Children in their ante-pre-school year residing outwith North Ayrshire.



## What to expect from Early Learning and Childcare Education

In the early years class/centre there will be fully qualified friendly staff who will be able to respond to your child's needs. They use the guidelines from a Curriculum for Excellence to plan interesting experiences to help him/her learn through play.

The early years class/centre premises will be safe and secure and children will have access to a wide range of interesting resources including outdoor play. Children will have the opportunity to make friends with other children and have fun in a safe environment where each child's culture, religion and language are respected.

As a parent/carer you will be encouraged to become involved in your child's learning.



## Questions you may have about your child attending an early years class/centre

**Q. Does my child have to attend an early years class/centre?**

**A.**

No. Attendance at the centre is not compulsory, however children benefit greatly from attending.

**Q. Can I apply to any early years centre?**

**A.**

Yes, however, children normally attend the centre closest to their home. You may wish to apply to another early years class/centre that is closer for childcare or your place of work.

**Q. What sessions are usually offered?**

**A.**

Usually five mornings or five afternoon sessions are offered. Within each neighbourhood there are some early years centres/ classes who will be able to offer a different model for working parents. If you have a specific request e.g. split placement, speak to the head of the establishment when you register your child.

**Q. Do I have to pay anything for my child's place at an early years centre?**

**A.**

Most centres ask for a small weekly donation towards the cost of providing snacks or special treats for your child. Some of our partner providers may have an additional charge. You should ask about costs when you register your child.

**Q. Can I change centre at any time?**

**A.** No. If your child has a place with a partner provider you may have to sign a contract agreeing to give a period of notice before moving. It can also be disruptive for your child to move centre unless it is necessary.

**Q. Can I request a morning place for my child?**

**A.** Most parents wish their child to attend five mornings a week. Unfortunately, there are insufficient morning places to satisfy the demand. You will be asked to state your preference for a morning or afternoon place when you complete your application form and the centre will try to allocate the session of your choice. However, if the demand exceeds the places a ballot will be held.

**Q. What if I don't feel my child is ready to start school?**

**A.** Children usually start school aged between four and five in Scotland. However parents of children with birthdays in January and February can request a deferred entry into school and children can have another year at the early years class/centre.

Parents of children with birthdays from September to December can also request a deferred entry to primary school if they do not feel their child is ready to start school.

If you wish to consider deferring your child's entry into school you should speak to the headteacher/head of centre. They will be happy to advise you on your child's progress and readiness for school. You will then be given a form to apply for deferred entry to primary school. Sometimes an assessment is carried out with the child to check his/her readiness for school.

**Q. What guarantee do I have that the early years class/centre is of a good standard?**

**A.** Centres must meet registration requirements agreed by the Care Inspectorate in order to be registered. All registered centres are inspected by the Care Inspectorate and HMIE (Education Scotland). Copies of recent inspection reports should be available in the early years class/centre and can be accessed at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com) and [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)

In addition to this North Ayrshire Council has its own system for promoting quality in early year's classes/centres.

**Q. What information will I get on my child's progress?**

**A.** Staff in the centre will observe your child and record his/her progress and development. They will share this information with you informally throughout the session. You will also be given a report on your child's progress and be invited into the early years class/centre to discuss your child's development.

**Q. Will there be support available if my child has additional needs?**

**A.** All children are treated as individuals in the centre and their learning needs will be met. If your child has been assessed as having additional support for learning needs, the early years class/centre will work with you and a range of support services to ensure your child's needs are met.

**Q** What happens if I need additional early learning and childcare for my child?

**A.** Information in relation to childcare is available through the Childcare & Recreation Information Service (CARIS). Assistance towards the costs of childcare may be available through Tax Credits and Universal Credits, telephone **0345 351 3000**.

**Q** Can my child go to a centre which is located in another local authority area?

**A.** If you would like to send your child to an early years class/centre outwith North Ayrshire you should contact the local authority in which the centre is located and contact Education and Youth Employment at North Ayrshire Council on **01294 310000**.

## Some Useful Contacts

**Education and Youth Employment**  
North Ayrshire Council  
Cunninghame House,  
Irvine KA12 8EE  
Telephone: 01294 310000  
North Ayrshire Council  
Web: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Care Inspectorate Local Office**  
Telephone: 0345 6009527  
Web: [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

**Childcare & Recreation Information Service (CARIS)**

Telephone: 0345 351 3000  
Web: [www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot)

**Children and Young People Bill**

Web: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

**Education Scotland**

Web: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)

**Tax Credits & Universal Credits**

Web: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

## Local Authority Early Years Classes and Early Years Centres

\*Provision also provided for 2 year-olds

**Abbey Primary & Early Years Class**

Claremont Crescent, Kilwinning KA13 7HD  
Tel: 01294 552251

**Ardeer Primary & Early Years Class**

Clark Crescent, Stevenston KA20 3LZ  
Tel: 01294 469785

**Beith Primary & Early Years Class**

Glebe Road, Beith KA15 1EZ  
Tel: 01505 502363

**Blacklands Primary & Early Years Class**

David's Crescent, Kilwinning KA13 6JJ  
Tel: 01294 552626

**Brisbane Primary & Early Years Class**

Holehouse Road, Largs KA30 9DZ  
Tel: 01475 686601

**Caledonia Primary & Early Years Class**

Campbell Avenue, Saltcoats KA21 5AF  
Tel: 01294 472092

**Castlepark Early Years Centre\***

Castlepark, Carron Place, Irvine KA12 9LQ  
Tel: 01294 278335



**Corrie Primary & Early Years Class**

Corrie, Isle of Arran KA27 8JP  
Tel: 01770 810244

**Corsehill Primary & Early Years Class\***

Fergushill Road, Kilwinning KA13 7LW  
Tel: 01294 552418

**Cumbræ Primary & Early Years Class**

Bute Terrace, Millport, Isle of Cumbræ KA28 0BB  
Tel: 01475 530343

**Dalry Early Years Centre\***

Sharon Street, Dalry KA24 5DR  
Tel: 01294 832200

**Dreghorn Primary & Early Years Class**

Dundonald Road, Dreghorn KA11 4AP  
Tel: 01294 211018

**Elderbank Primary & Early Years Class**

St Kilda Bank, Broomlands, KA11 1LA  
Tel: 01294 218632

**Fairlie Primary & Early Years Class**

Morton Way, Fairlie KA29 0BW  
Tel: 01475 568441

**Garnock Community Campus Early Years Class\***

Beith Road, Glengarnock, KA14 3BF  
Tel No: 01505 682685

**Gateside Primary & Early Years Class**

Main Road, Gateside, Near Beith  
KA15 2LF  
Tel: 01505 502776

**Garnock Valley Early Years Centre\***

St Bridget's PS Campus, Hagthorn Avenue  
Kilbirnie KA25 6EJ  
Tel: 01505 681322

**Glencairn Primary & Early Years Class\***

New Street, Stevenston KA20 3HQ  
Tel: 01294 464376

**Hayocks Primary & Early Years Class**

Lumsden Place, Stevenston KA20 4HG  
Tel: 01294 465283

**Kelburn Primary & Early Years Class**

Moorburn Road, Largs KA30 9HT  
Tel: 01475 675216

**Kilmory Primary & Early Years Class**

Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ  
Tel: 01770 870262

**Kilwinning Early Years Centre**

**Pennyburn Primary School\***  
Sundrum Place, Kilwinning KA13 6SE  
Tel: 01294 550858

**Lamlash Primary & Early Years Class**

Mackelvie Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran  
KA27 8NP Tel: 01770 600527

**Lawthorn Primary & Early Years Class**

Lochlibo Road, Lawthorn, Irvine KA11 2AY  
Tel: 01294 224548

**Loudoun-Montgomery Primary & Early Years Class\***

Ayr Road, Irvine KA12 8DF  
Tel: 01294 279031

**Mayfield Primary & Early Years Class**

Kenilworth Drive, Saltcoats KA21 6HS  
Tel: 01294 465576

**Moorpark Primary & Early Years Class**

Milton Road, Kilbirnie KA25 7EP  
Tel: 01505 685386

**Pirnmill Primary & Early Years Class**

Pirnmill, Isle of Arran KA27 8HP  
Tel: 01770 850226

**Shiskine Primary & Early Years Class**

Shiskine, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP  
Tel: 01770 860207

**Skelmorlie Primary & Early Years Class**

Innes Park Road, Skelmorlie PA17 5BA  
Tel: 01475 520997

**Springside Primary & Early Years Class**

Station Road, Springside KA11 3AZ  
Tel: 01294 211651

**Springvale Early Years Centre\***

Sannox Drive, Saltcoats KA21 6JD  
Tel: 01294 607025

**St Bridget's Primary & Early Years Class**

Hagthorn Avenue, Kilbirnie KA25 6EJ  
Tel: 01505 683293

**St John Ogilvie Primary & Early Years Class**

13 Towerlands Farm Road  
Irvine KA11 1PZ  
Tel: 01294 218823

**St John's Primary & Early Years Class**

Morrison Avenue, Stevenston KA20 4HH  
Tel: 01294 464557

**St Luke's Primary & Early Years Class**

Pennyburn Road, Kilwinning KA13 6LF  
Tel: 01294 552131

**St Mark's Primary & Early Years Class**

Clark Drive, Irvine KA12 ONS  
Tel: 01294 271167

**St Mary's Primary & Early Years Class**

Linn Avenue, Largs KA30 9JU  
Tel: 01475 674382

**St Peter's Primary & Early Years Class**

South Isle Road, Ardrossan KA22 7PX  
Tel: 01294 462554

**Stanecastle School & Early Years Class\***

Burns Crescent, Irvine KA11 1AQ  
Tel: 01294 211914

**Stanley Primary & Early Years Class**

Stanley Road, Ardrossan KA22 7DH  
Tel: 01294 462531

**Whitlees Community Centre 2 year old provision\***

Carrick Place, Ardrossan KA22 7DT  
Tel: 01294 462531

**West Kilbride Primary & Early Years Class**

Hunterston Road, West Kilbride  
KA23 9EX  
Early Years only open AM Tel: 01294 829978  
Contact School PM Tel: 01294 822353

**Winton Primary & Early Years Class\***

Anderson Terrace  
Ardrossan KA13 6NQ  
Tel: 01294 464443

**Woodlands Primary & Early Years Class**

Woodlands Avenue, Irvine KA12 0PU  
Tel: 01294 279532

## PARTNER PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

### **Annick Pre School**

Old Parish Church, 47 Kirkgate  
Irvine KA12 0DG  
Tel: 07546 282992

### **Bradshaw Nursery**

22 Bradshaw Street  
Saltcoats KA21 5HR  
Tel: 01294 471576

### **Bright Beginnings Nursery**

Guide Hall, Muir Drive  
Irvine KA12 0NR  
Tel: 07977 557626

### **Brodick Nursery**

Brodick Public Hall, Brodick  
Isle of Arran KA27 8DL  
Tel: 07944 033993

### **Burnside House Nursery**

Childcare Scotland, Burnside House24  
Kilwinning Road  
Irvine KA12 8RU  
Tel No: 01294 313180

### **Busy Bees Nursery**

The James Moffat Centre  
187 Glasgow Street  
Ardrossan KA22 8JY  
Tel: 07967 129330 or  
Tel: 01294 470892



### **Douglas Park Nursery**

Cathcart Road  
Largs KA30 8JB  
Tel: 07971 523702

### **First Steps Nursery**

216 Bank Street  
Irvine KA12 0YD  
Tel: 01294 212632

### **Little Deers Nursery**

Buckreddan Care Centre  
Irvine Road  
Kilwinning KA13 7PF  
Tel: 01294 542707

### **Owl and Pussycat Too Nursery**

1 Montgomery Lane  
Irvine KA12 8PS  
Tel: 01294 270700

### **Playtime Nursery**

Dalry Community Centre  
St Margaret Avenue  
Dalry KA24 4BA  
Tel: 01294 833288 or alternatively  
07881 883544

**Rainbow Childcare**  
19 Howgate  
Kilwinning KA13 6EN  
Tel: 01294 557651

**Summerlea House Nursery**  
Childcare Scotland  
9 Union Street  
Largs KA30 8DG  
Tel: 01475 672011

**St Peter's Children's Centre**  
St Peter's Parish Centre  
1 South Crescent Road  
Ardrossan KA22 8DU  
Tel: 01294 473030

**The Yellow Brick Road Early Years Centre**  
St Columba's Church Hall  
13 Glasgow Street  
Kilbirnie, KA25 7AP  
Tel No: 01505 227120

**Treetops Too Private Nursery**  
Ailsa Road, Saltcoats  
Ayrshire KA21 6LR  
Tel: 01294 607270

**Treetops Private Nursery**  
83 Anderson Drive  
Irvine KA12 9HY  
Tel: 01294 312600



**West Kilbride Early Years Centre**  
Community Centre, Corse Street  
West Kilbride KA23 9AX  
Tel: 01294 829217

**Whitehirst Park Private Nursery**  
West Doura Farm  
Stevenston Road  
Kilwinning KA13 6NQ  
Tel: 01294 551171