



Argyll & Bute Council: Community Services  
Early Years Service  
Partner Childminder Service



Introduction

The provision of a good quality Early Learning and Childcare experience builds on the valuable learning that takes place in and around the home before children start Primary School. It also develops the learning and other essential skills that they will rely on in later life.

For the first time some 2 year olds are eligible to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). It will help young children gain vital language and learning skills, improve their social development and help them do better at school when it comes. It will also support parents to work, train or study. ELC for eligible 2 year olds can be provided by a range of services including Playgroups, Nurseries, Local Authority ELC providers and Childminders.

Eligible 2 year olds will start the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday as outlined below:

Born between	Term
1 March – 31 August	August term*
1 September – 31 December	January term
1 January – 28/29 February	Easter term

\* Children whose birthday falls after the first day of term in August (including in-service days) will start in the January following their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Eligible 2 year olds can receive up to 600 hours of ELC (pro rata, depending on their start date). Under section 51 of the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 (<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00457025.pdf>) education authorities must deliver the mandatory amount of ELC within a minimum framework of sessions which are no less than 2.5 hours: and, no more than 8 hours a day in duration. This must be over a minimum of 38 weeks a year (or pro rata) which need not be confined to term time. It is intended that children take up their entitlement at times that best support their learning and support the needs of parents.

Please refer to the Parent Information Booklet (appendix 1) for further information on what 2 year olds are eligible, how parents of eligible 2 year olds can apply and how places are offered.

Full details of the Council's policy on Early Learning and Childcare are contained in the Education Management Circular, available through Sharing Argyll Learning Ideas (SALi - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/sali/early-years/>). Also contained within SALi are lots of other relevant resources and information, a great place for sharing good practice and useful material.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Early Years Team if you require advice or guidance in regards to any aspect of Early Learning and Childcare. Early Years maintain a helpline, Monday to Friday, 9-5pm.

See below for ways of getting in touch:

PCM1 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Early Years Helpline  
Family Information Service  
Email  
Address

01369 708503 Monday-Friday 9-5pm  
01369 708517 Monday-Friday 9-5pm  
earlyyears@argyll-bute.gov.uk  
Argyll House, Alexandria Parade, Dunoon,  
PA23 8AJ

Sharing Argyll Learning Ideas (SALi)

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/sali/early-years>

Web page

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning)