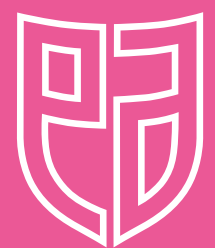




A GUIDE

to **Early Learning and
Childcare in East Ayrshire**
(including the Allocations Policy 2021/22)



Contents

Introduction	3
Entitlement, Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard	4
Making an Application for an Early Learning and Childcare Place	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>When and where do I make application for a place?</i>• <i>What early learning and childcare is available?</i>• <i>Can I apply for a place in any early learning and childcare setting?</i>	
Models of Early Learning and Childcare	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The 3 Models</i>• <i>Blended Model</i>• <i>Split Placement</i>	
Cross Boundary Places	8
Allocation of Places and Deciding Priorities	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Eligibility for early learning and childcare places</i>• <i>Deferred entry to primary school and an additional year of early learning and childcare</i>• <i>My child has a place do I have to register again?</i>	
Ballot	11
Early Learning and Childcare Allocation Policy for Academic Year 2021/22	12
List of East Ayrshire Council Early Childhood Centres	15
List of Funded Providers	19
Useful Contacts	20

Introduction

Early learning and childcare (ELC) is an important stage in a child's development and helps children to learn through play. A high quality early learning and childcare experience builds on the valuable learning that takes place in and around the home and also promotes the development of other essential skills that they will rely on in later life. Children greatly enjoy and benefit from playing and sharing their learning with other children.

Early childhood centres and funded providers are staffed by practitioners skilled in responding to children's needs and interests in a nurturing, caring and child friendly environment.

Learning experiences, which are developmentally appropriate, provide children with opportunities to be creative and curious, to explore, experiment and pursue their interests, to communicate, collaborate and forge friendships which can last a lifetime.

All providers of government funded early learning and childcare are currently inspected by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland. Practitioners follow national guidelines for the learning and care of children aged 0-5 years that encourage learning through play.

Entitlement, Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard

From August 2021, all 3 & 4-year olds and eligible 2-year olds will have access to 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare.

That means 30 hours per week Monday to Friday during school term time or around 23 hours a week if taken across a calendar year.

The “Funding Follows the Child” approach will be introduced from August 2021 along with the statutory roll out of the increased hours of early learning and childcare.

The approach ensures that the funded entitlement is delivered in high quality settings that meet the new National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). At the heart of the new Standard is a clear and consistent set of quality criteria, to ensure that all settings which offer the funded entitlement are delivering the highest quality early learning and childcare experience.

Providers who meet the new National Standard for ELC, have contracted with a local authority and have a space available can offer your child a funded place. Providers can include:

- Registered childminders
- Private or voluntary sector nurseries
- Early childhood centres and nurseries

Information on the National Standard can be found here

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/funding-follows-child-national-standard-early-learning-childcare-providers-principles-practice/>

The statutory funded early learning and childcare is an entitlement for children and attendance is not compulsory.

If you are seeking a more flexible pattern of hours for your child, including less than 1140 hours, please discuss this with the Head of Centre/Head Teacher, Depute Manager or Senior Lead early learning and childcare practitioner.

Making an Application for an Early Learning and Childcare Place

When and where do I make application for a place?

A Public Notice appears in the local press during February and information is also featured on the Council's website (www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk). This guide sets out the Council's Policy for the allocation of Early Learning and Childcare places and is available to view on the Council website along with the online application form.

All places are allocated in line with the priorities outlined in this leaflet e.g. first priority is given to children who meet the criteria set out in Priority 1, then Priority 2 and so on.

Every effort will be made to meet your first choice of centre and preferred pattern of attendance however, this will be dependent on the number of places available and the priority given to applications.

The on-line application will be available from **Friday 19 February 2021 to Friday 12 March 2021 – (midnight)**. It is important that you make application by **Friday 12 March 2021** noting your first choice of centre. You should also identify your second choice of centre and preferred pattern of attendance on the application form as there may be occasions when you cannot access a place in your first choice of centre. Applications which do not indicate a second choice may not be considered.

If you wish to apply for a split session place you will need to make an online application for each centre.

Applications received after **Friday 12 March 2021** will be allocated in a second phase before or at the start of the new term in August 2021.

When completing the application, parents and carers should note any issues which may affect their child e.g toileting, any special dietary requirements or medical issues. This is to enable appropriate planning to take place and will not affect their child's access to a place.

What early learning and childcare is available?

There are 36 early childhood centres (ECCs) in East Ayrshire – 7 standalone ECCs, and 29 based in primary schools. In addition, the Council has a contract with private and voluntary sector nurseries, known as funded providers and childminders who have met the National Standard for ELC to deliver funded places.

Please see pages 15-18 for a full list of ECCs, funded provider centres and the models of delivery from August 2021.

If you do not know where your nearest early childhood centre or funded provider is you can email Education - Early Years Service, EarlyYears-Admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Can I apply for a place in any ECC or Funded Provider (FP)?

Yes, however geographic criteria apply to early childhood centres and funded providers offering 1140 hours.

Children who reside outwith East Ayrshire and who are cared for by a childminder and/or relative in East Ayrshire will be considered using their home address only.

The information you provide on the application form will help the head/manager of centre to give appropriate priority to your application. It is important that you provide full details on the form. You may also wish another agency to provide further information in support of your application e.g health. You can indicate this on your application form.

If your circumstances change, it is important that you let the head/manager of centre know so that your application can be updated. This includes any change of address, telephone number or other contact details.

Proof of the child's date of birth should be provided when you complete the application form. This must be the child's birth certificate.

Proof of the parent's residency at the time of application is also required; this must be Council Tax documentation, a bank statement or utility bill. This will be used in determining priorities for allocation of places.

All required documentation can be photographed or scanned and uploaded with the application form.

Models of Early Learning and Childcare

In East Ayrshire, there are 3 main models of delivery: term time, full year or combined early learning and childcare (ELC) packages in two settings.

- **Model 1:** 1140 hours across 38 weeks (term time – for example 9.00am to 3.00pm) and is available in both term time and full year services. Please note these places in full year services are limited.
- **Model 2:** 1140 hours - the Block model: a block is 4 hours 45 minutes: 8.00am-12.45pm or 1.15pm -6.00pm. Available in full year services only.

Model 2 can be taken as 5 blocks per week over 48 weeks in mornings, afternoons or a combination of two full days and one half day, or as 6 blocks per week taken in term time as 3 whole days.
- **Model 3:** 1140 hours the Blended Model or Split placement provides combination ELC packages of time in an ECC or funded provider and with a participating childminder - a Blended Model **or** in an ECC and with a funded provider - a Split Placement.

Using a combination of time between 2 different settings provides a flexible service that gives parents/carers the choice of early learning and childcare that fit around their family's needs. Parents/carers can also have the option to privately fund additional hours with those funded providers or childminders if their childcare needs exceed 1140 hours.

Childminders

Childminders who are on the Council's contract framework can deliver either the full 1140 hours of ELC or blended model. To confirm if your childminder is delivering the full entitlement of 1140 hours, please contact East Ayrshire Community Childcare Team communitychildcaresupport-admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Blended Model – Childminders

A blended model of ELC which offers a combination of ELC with a participating registered childminder and either an early childhood centre or a funded provider. To confirm if your childminder is participating in this model or for more information about the blended model, please contact East Ayrshire Community Childcare Team communitychildcaresupport-admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

When applying for a blended model with a childminder, a separate application does not need to be submitted to the childminder. Parents should negotiate the split of the placement with the participating childminder and the early childhood centre or funded provider.

For the 9.00am to 3.00pm pattern of hours and with a blended model; where the blend is on a daily basis (i.e some time with a participating childminder and in the

early childhood centre (ECC) or funded provider (FP) each day) attendance of 3 hours at the ECC and FP is expected. This amount of time allows your child to settle in and become fully engaged in the opportunities available.

Split Placement between 2 Centres

If you wish to apply for a split placement between 2 ELC settings you should complete an online application for each ELC setting. Please ensure that you have negotiated the split pattern of attendance and note this in both applications.

The allocation of split places will be dependent on both settings being able to offer the hours requested.

Please be aware that although every effort will be made to meet your needs, there is no guarantee that it will be possible to offer split funded places in every case.

Cross Boundary places

Can my child access early learning and childcare in another local authority?

The choice of ELC setting available to families is not restricted to their own local authority area. Please contact Education - Early Years Service, EarlyYears-Admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk for further information.

Allocation of Places and Deciding Priorities

The Early Learning and Childcare Allocation Policy sets out the priority criteria for places and patterns of hours.

Dates of birth or length of time on the register of applications does not affect priority to 4-year-old children. 3-year-old children will be eligible for a place in the month after their third birthday according to set dates. Eligible 2 year olds can access a place the term after their 2nd birthday.

All places for children aged 3-5 years are allocated to early childhood centres and funded provider centres, including childminders through a central admissions process. This ensures that all eligible children have access to a place.

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

Eligibility for Early Learning and Childcare Places

Eligible 3 year old and 4 year old children are entitled to 1140 hours of early learning and childcare from August 2021 according to the following dates of birth:

4 year olds

If your child's date of birth is on or between **1 March 2017 and the 28 February 2018** He/she will be eligible for a funded early learning and childcare place in **August 2021**

3 year olds

If your child's date of birth is on or between **1st March 2018 and the 28th February 2019**

He/she will be eligible for a funded place as set out in the table below.

Children born between:	Will be eligible from:
1 March 2018 - 31 August 2018	August 2021
1 September 2018 – 28 February 2019	The month after their 3rd birthday

Places are available from the first Monday of the month after the third birthday (Tuesday if there is a public holiday). However, staggered entry dates may be required due to the number of eligible children in any given month. Where this applies, early childhood centres and funded providers will have 10 days to admit all eligible children.

*Children whose 3rd birthday falls on or between 1st March 2019 and the 31st August 2019 will be eligible for a place in **August 2022**.*

2 year olds

2-year-old children who are eligible for a funded place under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, who meet the following criteria on or after their 2nd birthday:

- Looked after
- Under a kinship care order
- Have a parent appointed guardian

or for those whose parent or carer meet the criteria below, eligibility is the term after their 2nd birthday:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income based)
- Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum
- Working Tax Credit and your income is under £7320 or the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit and your income is £610 per month or £7320 per year or less
- Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Birthday	Term	Month
1st March - 31st August	Autumn	August
1st September - 31st December	Spring	January
1st January - last day of February	Summer	April

A separate online application form is available for parents/carers to complete as this process confirms eligibility for a 2 year old place.

Deferred Entry to primary school and an additional year of early learning and childcare

All children who are still 4 years old at the start of the school year can be deferred and start primary one the following year. Children with a birthday in January or February are automatically entitled to another year of funded early learning and childcare.

Should parents of children with a birthday between the school commencement date in August and the end of December choose to defer entry to primary school and start primary 1 the following year, local authorities have discretion over whether to provide additional early learning and childcare hours. This is based on an assessment of wellbeing informed by appropriate professional.

If you wish to consider deferring your child's entry to school and wish an additional year of early learning and childcare for your child, please contact the head/manager of the centre your child currently attends. An online application form is available for parents to complete entitled "Deferred Entry to Primary School/Additional Year of Early Learning and Childcare".

My child has a place, do I have to register again?

If your child is returning for their pre-school year to an early childhood centre or funded provider you do not have to register again.

However, you should complete and submit a new application by **Friday 12 March 2021** if you wish to:

- change your child's pattern of attendance
- change placement to another ECC or funded provider for session 2021/22 ;or
- if your current ECC, funded provider or childminder will start delivering 1140 hours from August 2021

Ballot

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

- Oversubscription of applications for 4 year olds;
- Oversubscription of applications for eligible 3 year olds; or
- 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 application form. Places and patterns of attendance will be allocated according to the allocation criteria set out in the ELC Allocation Policy Priorities 1 to 9.

If your application for a place is not allocated in the centre of your first choice, then your application will be considered for a place in the centre of your second choice.

If your second choice of centre cannot provide a place then you will be offered an alternative place for your child.

Please note:

If your child is allocated a place in an early childhood centre where there is an associated primary school, **there is no automatic right to a place in the primary school.**

Priority criteria for the allocation of funded places for eligible 2 year old children and entitled 3 and 4 year old children.

Priority 1:

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

Priority 2:

Children already attending or returning to an ELC setting (early childhood centre, funded provider or a registered childminder providing funded places) including children who attended as eligible 2 year olds and children having an additional year of ELC as follows:-

Children who have additional support needs where a multi-agency assessment of wellbeing indicates potential benefit from an additional year of early learning and childcare;

Children born in January or February who are entitled to an additional year of early learning and childcare up to the August (Autumn) term following their 5th birthday;

Children whose birthday is between the start of the school year in August and December where an assessment of wellbeing informed by appropriate professional assessment and agreed by the Assessment Panel indicates potential benefit from an additional year of early learning and childcare.

Priority 3:

Children resident in East Ayrshire postcodes in Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Quintile1.

Within this priority, the following criteria apply in order:-

- (i) Children whose parents are in employment, education or training and are in receipt of income support, income based job seekers allowance, working tax credits or universal credit.
- (ii) Children whose parents are in employment, education or training
- (iii) Children resident in SIMD Quintile1 in East Ayrshire

Priority 4:

Children resident in East Ayrshire postcodes in Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Quintile 2.

Within this priority the following criteria apply in order:-

- (i) Children whose parents are in employment, education or training and are in receipt of income support, income based job seekers allowance, working tax credits or universal credit.
- (ii) Children whose parents are in employment, education or training
- (iii) Children resident in SIMD Quintile 2 in East Ayrshire

Priority 5:

Children who have a sibling attending the same ELC setting

Places will be allocated according to the defined geographic area for the ELC setting

Priority 6:

4 year olds who are resident in East Ayrshire

Places will be allocated according to the defined geographic area for the ELC setting

Priority 7:

3 year olds who are resident in East Ayrshire according to the dates set for eligibility.

Places will be allocated according to the defined geographic area for the ELC setting

Priority 8:

Children resident in isolated or rural areas outwith the boundary of East Ayrshire but within the catchment area of an East Ayrshire primary School.

Priority 9:

Children resident outwith the boundary of East Ayrshire

Eligible 2-year olds

Places will be allocated in priority order as set out in the following criteria:

- i) Requests for assistance from another agency for 2-year-old children who meet the criteria set out in **Priority 1** of the Council's Early Learning and Childcare Allocation Policy

Eligibility for funded early learning and childcare entitlement for 2 year olds is set out in the Children and young People (Scotland) Act 2014

- ii) Applications for 2-year-old children who are eligible for a funded place under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 who are:
 - Looked after

- Under a kinship care order
- Have a parent appointed guardian
- A child whose parent is in receipt of qualifying benefits
- A child who meets the conditions of Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Qualifying Benefits include:

Income Support • Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based) • Employment Support Allowance (Income Based) • Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105* • Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £7,320* • Universal Credit where the monthly earned income does not exceed £610 • Asylum Seeker receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance • State Pension Credit.

* The income threshold for CTC & WTC can vary annually.

Applications that meet the criteria under Priorities 5,6 and 7 will be allocated as per the defined geographic area applied to each early years setting as follows:

- the primary school catchment area where an ECC is located on the same campus as a primary school; or
- the primary school catchment area within which a standalone ECC or funded provider sits.

In all cases, priority will be given to children who live in postcodes defined as SIMD 1 and thereafter SIMD 2, within designated primary school catchment areas.

Ballots may need to take place in ECCs and funded providers, if there are insufficient places to meet demand, all other circumstances being equal.

Local Authority Early Childhood Centres

All establishments are non-denominational.

Early childhood centre	Address	Telephone	Age Group	Model 2021-22
Auchinleck	Dalsalloch Road, Auchinleck, KA18 2BU	01290 421260	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Bellsbank *	Craiglea Crescent, Dalmellington, KA6 7UA	01292 551195	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Cairns *	Altonhill Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA3 1PH	01563 533177	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Catrine	Newton Street, Catrine, KA5 6RY	01290 551233	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Cherry Trees	The Barony Campus, Auchinleck Road, Cumnock KA18 1FQ	01290 427299	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Crosshouse	Playingfield Road, Crosshouse, KA2 0JJ	01563 532300	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Dalmellington	Ayr Road, Dalmellington, KA6 7SJ	01292 550364	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Dalrymple	Hillview, Dalrymple, KA6 6PZ	01292 560368	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Darvel	Campbell Street East, Darvel, KA17 0BP	01560 320785	3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3

Drongan	Millmannoch Avenue, Drongan KA6 7BY	01292 591521	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Dunlop	Main Street, Dunlop, KA3 4AN	01560 484098	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Fenwick	1 Kirkton Road, Fenwick KA3 6DH	01560 600403	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Flowerbank *	30 North Hamilton Street KA1 2QJ	01563 522722	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Galston	Western Road, Galston, KA4 8BG	01563 820360	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Gargieston	Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 1UG	01563 533067	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Hillbank	North West Kilmarnock Area Centre Western Road, Kilmarnock KA3 1NQ	01563 521064	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Hurlford	Union Street, Hurlford, Kilmarnock, KA1 5BT	01563 525098	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
James Hamilton	William McIlvanney Campus, Sutherland Drive, Kilmarnock KA3 7DF	01563 558508	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Kilmaurs	East Park Drive, Kilmaurs, KA3 2QS	01563 538674	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3

Lainshaw	Kilwinning Road, Stewarton KA3 3DL	01560 483653	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Littlemill	Littlemill, Rankinston KA6 7HG	01292 590221	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Loanhead	Dick Road, Kilmarnock KA1 3AP	01563 522938	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Logan	Logangate Terrace, Logan, Cumnock, KA18 3HD	01290 421916	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Mauchline	The Loan, Mauchline KA5 6AN	01290 550306	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Muirkirk	Burns Avenue, Muirkirk, KA18 3RH	01290 661350	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Netherthird *	Craigens Road, Cumnock, KA18 3AN	01290 425823	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Nether Robertland	Cairnduff Place, Stewarton, KA3 5QF	01560 484934	3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
New Cumnock	Afton Bridgend, New Cumnock, KA18 4AX	01290 338593	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Newmilns	Gilfoot, Newmilns, KA16 9LP	01560 320915	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Onthank	Meiklewood Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2ES	01563 534660	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3

Patna	Whitehill Avenue, Patna KA6 7LY	01292 531271	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Riccarton	45 Campbell Place, Kilmarnock KA1 4DY	01563 535633	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Sgoil-araich na Coille Nuaidh	William McIlvanney Campus, Sutherland Drive, Kilmarnock KA3 7DF	01563 525477	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Shortlees *	Blacksyke Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3SR	01563 533678	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
St Andrews	Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7SL	01563 549549	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Whatriggs	Whatriggs Road, Kilmarnock KA1 3SZ	01563 551587	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3

*denotes an early childhood centre that provides a small number of places for children aged 0-2 years which are allocated through a multi-agency resource allocation group.

Funded Provider Centres

Funded ELC Provider	Address	Telephone	Age Group	Model 2021-22
Avenue Childcare Service	8-10 Tourhill Road, Kilmarnock KA3 2BJ	01563 572828	2,3 and 4 year olds	2, 3
Beechwood House Nursery	34 Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 1RX	01563 573555	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Burns Bairns	The Centre Stane, 2 The Cross, Mauchline, KA5 5DA	07752072111	3 and 4 year olds	1, 3
Craighead Country Nursery	Craighead Farm, Mauchline KA5 6EX	01290 559217 Or 07543 094874	2, 3 and 4 year olds	2, 3
Dean Park Nursery	56 Beansburn, Kilmarnock, KA3 1RN	01563 539128	3 and 4 year olds	2, 3
Grasshoppers Nursery	30 Witchknowe Road, Kilmarnock KA1 4LN	01563 571598	2, 3 and 4 year olds	1, 2, 3
Hurlford and Crookedholm Early Learning and Childcare Services	51 Academy Street, Hurlford, KA1 5BU	07967115689	2,3 and 4 year olds	1, 3

Useful Contacts

Economy and Skills Education Service

EarlyYears-Admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk

East Ayrshire Community Childcare Team

communitychildcaresupport-admin@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Parent Club

www.parentclub.scot/elc

Twitter: @parentclubscot

Care Inspectorate

Compass House 11 Riverside Drive DUNDEE DD1 4NY

Tel: 01382 207100

Twitter: @CareInspect

www.careinspectorate.com

Education Scotland

www.education.gov.scot

Twitter: @EducationScot

The information contained in this booklet is accurate at the time of publication but may be subject to change.