



Galston Early Childhood Centre



January 2026!



We hope everyone had a magical and enjoyable festive break. This week we have enjoyed welcoming everyone back to the Centre and meeting children and their families of children due to start the Centre over the next couple of weeks.

Registration for School



Will your child be five years old between 1 March 2026 and 28 February 2027?

P1 registration, for children who turn five years between 1 March 2026 and 28 February 2027, opens on Monday 12th January and closes on Friday 16th January.

Registration will be online and you will need a copy of your child's birth certificate and two proofs of your residence in the catchment area, in the form of a Council Tax Notice or utility bill.

If you would like for your child to attend a school outside your catchment area, you can submit a placing request to the education authority. Your child must first be enrolled at their local catchment school. All placing requests for the August 2026 school session must be received by **31 January 2026**.

Please click on the link below to take you to the Council site:

<https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools/SchoolAdmissions/SchoolAdmissions.aspx>

If you wish for your child to have an additional year of funded early learning and childcare, your child must meet the criteria below:

- they are still four years old on the date they are eligible to start school and
- their fifth birthday is on or between the day after school starts in August and the last day of February

If parents and carers are seeking an additional year of funded ELC for their child whose birthdate sits within these dates, parents/carers should complete the form below by clicking on the link below and should be completed and submitted no later than **28 February 2026**.

<https://eastayrshi.re/defer>

Please be aware that if you wish to defer your child, discuss this with your child's keyworker. If you choose to defer your child, parents/carers must still complete the school registration form.

Lending Library



Our lending library will restart on Wednesday 21st January. Following our trial in the Autumn term, we have decided to make lending library day a Wednesday for all children. We hope that this will support consistency and ease for everyone involved.

All the children have been working towards achieving their first Book Worm certificates. To achieve this the children are required to have chosen and returned 5 stories of their choice. Some children have achieved this and will now work towards their bronze certificates. We have lots of children who have now selected 3 or 4 stories and will soon earn their first certificates!

All children will have the opportunity to choose a book each Wednesday and take it home in their library bags if they have returned their book from the previous week. All library books should be returned to the library crate in the cloakroom by Tuesday so that the books can be sorted ready for the lending library the next day.

We are always seeking support from parents/carers in running the lending library so if you have an hour free either from 9:15 -10am or from 1:30-2:30pm on a Wednesday we would love to hear from you!



Thank you for your kind donations for the foodbank and supporting this local resource at such a busy time of year!



We will be holding PEEP sessions for families in the sunshine room from the week beginning 2nd February. Look out for more information through the learning journals.

Recycle, Re-use and Re-love!



The RAG Bag collection team will be collecting wearable clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts and ties on **Tuesday 17th February**. The RAG bag team will weigh our donations and pay the Centre for each Kilo. All money raised will be put towards resources and experiences for the children to enjoy, whilst also supporting learning about recycling and repurposing of our waste products.

Rhyme of the Month



Using Makaton to support communication

We can support communication with all children through using Makaton. Makaton improves communication by combining speech with simple, natural signs and visual symbols to provide multiple clues to help others to understand and be understood. You can click on the link below to listen to the rhyme and try to learn the Makaton signs

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=290055638020>

January Top Tip

January top tip

Make reading part of your day.
 Read books appropriate to your child's age and stage.
 Talk about the books you read.

This will help with spelling when they go to school and build their general knowledge and language skills.

Check out our social media: @weepeoplechat @AyrshireSLT

Helpline & Virtual Drop In
 Helpline: Phone-07980919654
 Mon 9:30am- 11:30am
 Thur- 2pm-4pm

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Virtual- Phone/Text- 07812519298 to book an appointment for:

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

EAST AYRSHIRE SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY ONLINE DROP INS

#Getting wee people chatting

Do you have concerns about your child's speech and language development? In addition to our helpline we will now be offering times for virtual drop ins. This will be a chance for you to speak face to face with a Speech and Language Therapist who can provide advice and guidance. You can attend with or without your child.

If you would like to attend a drop in session please text the number below and you will be given a time slot. You will then be provided with an information leaflet on how the drop in is run. This is for children who are not currently on the Speech and Language Caseload. If you already have a named Speech and Language Therapist please contact them for advice.

Please text on: 07812519298

Virtual drop ins will be available every:

Tuesday Afternoon 3pm-6pm
 Friday Morning 9:30am-12:30pm

Social Media
 @ayrshireslt
 Speech and Language Therapy in East Ayrshire
 @weepeoplechat

Our helpline is available to call every Monday at 9:30am - 11:30am and Thursday at 2pm - 4pm on 07980919654.

If you have concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, you can contact the speech and language helpline on Mondays between 9:30 - 11:30am or Thursday afternoons between 2pm - 4pm.

Childsmile - Toothbrushing Programme



All children will have the opportunity to take part in childsmile toothbrushing programme. This is an opt out programme. Children are supported to brush their teeth at a time aligns with their session. This programme is aimed for children to brush their teeth in addition to the usual morning and evening brushing at home.

If you wish to opt out or have any questions, please speak with your child's keyworker

Dates for the diary!

Dates for the Diary 2026	
January	
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th January (inclusive)	Registration for Primary One opens on line.
Thursday 15 th January	Rights Respecting Schools: Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday 21 st January	Lending Library re-starts
February	
Monday 9 th February	ECC closed to Term Time children ECC open for children attending full year model
Tuesday 10 th February	In-Service day. ECC closed for all children
Wednesday 11 th February	Centre re-opens for all children
Tuesday 17 th February	RAG Bag Collection Please bring all donations to the Centre by Friday 6 th February
Friday 20 th February	Rights Respecting Schools: Mother Language Day
TBC	Registration for 3-5 places opens
March	
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
April	
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term for Term time children (Easter break Friday 3 rd to Friday 17 th inclusive)
Friday 3 rd April	Public Holiday – ECC closed for all children
Monday 6 th April	Public Holiday – ECC closed for all children
Tuesday 7 th April	ECC re-opens for full year children
Monday 20 th April	Rights Respecting Schools: World Health Day ECC re-opens for all children
May	
Monday 4 th May	Public Holiday – ECC closed for all children
Tuesday 5 th May	ECC open for all children
Thursday 7 th May	In-Service day – ECC closed for all children
Friday 8 th May	ECC open for all children
End May Date TBC	Children's Progress Meetings
June	
Friday 5 th June	Rights Respecting Schools: World Environment Day
TBC	Transition events – separate calendar of events
TBC	Leavers Celebration from 3:15
TBC (last Monday of term?)	First stay and play event for children starting in August 26
Friday 26 th June	Last day of term for Term Time children
Monday 29 th June	Summer provision begins for full year children
July	
Dates TBC	Transition events for new starting 3-year-olds
August	
Monday 17 th August	In-Service Day
Tuesday 18 th August	In-Service Day
Wednesday 19 th August	ECC open for all returning children



Nappies and Wipes

A gentle reminder that parents/carers are responsible for making sure that their child has plenty of nappies and wipes in their child's bag. For children who are wearing pants, we kindly request that plenty of spare pants and trousers are put into your child's bag to get changed into in the event of a toileting accident or messy play.

Winter Woolies!



We would love any spare hats and gloves which we can use over the colder period. Please hand them to your child's keyworker or the outdoor staff

Learning Journals

All parents/carers should have access to their child's learning journal. Information on the journal will document your child's learning within the Centre through observations which support next step targets. General information, in the form of stories will also be included on the journals to share events, reminders and the newsletter. If you require any support in accessing your child's learning journal, please let your child's keyworker know. All observations will be published weekly on Friday at 6pm.

Contact us!



Phone: You can contact the Office on: 01563 820360

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