

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 to early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire.

In August 2020 the annual entitlement to early learning and childcare will be 1140 hours for all three and four year olds and eligible two-year olds.

Parents have the choice to use their early learning and childcare (ELC) entitlement at any local authority or funded provider* meeting the National Standards. There is a full list of local authority and funded providers at Appendix 2 and on the CARIS website: www.families.scot

Throughout this document the terms:

- Parent refers to both parents and carers.
- Funded provider refers to local authority, private and voluntary providers, and childminders that are in contract to deliver ELC on behalf of the Council.

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 30 hours per week over term time (38 weeks) or 23.75 hours per week over the full year (48 weeks) or 28.5 hours over 40 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). Parents will choose 5 sessions per week: either 5 mornings or 5 afternoons or 2.5 days per week- 23.75 hours per week.
- term time+ delivery (38+2 weeks). Parents will choose 6 sessions per week: 1 full day and either 4 morning or 4 afternoon sessions: 28.5 hours. In addition, parents will have the option to choose a further 12 sessions throughout the year, 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	●
	Beith Primary Early Years Class	
	Garnock Community Campus	●
	St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class	●
Three Towns	Stanley Primary Early Years Class	
	St Peter's Primary Early Years Class	●
	Springvale Early Years Centre	●
	Caledonia Primary Early Years Class	
	Hayocks Primary Early Years Class	●
	Glencairn Primary Early Years Class	●
	Ardeer Primary Early Years Class	
Irvine	Stanecastle/Annick Primary Early Years Class	●
	Woodlands Primary Early Years Class	
	Loudoun-Montgomery Primary Early Years Class	●
	Castlepark Early Years Centre	●
	St John Ogilvie Primary Early Years Class	●
	Marress House (from 2021)	●
	Springside Early Years Centre	
Kilwinning	Abbey Primary Early Years Class	
	Kilwinning Early Years Centre	●
	St Luke's Primary Early Years Class	
North Coast	Largs Early Years Centre	●
	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	●
	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	●
	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 2 for a list of funded providers, which includes childminders. Their contact information is also available on CARIS website at www.families.scot.

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

From August 2020, 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
March – August* (up to and including the school commencement date)	August – Term 1
August (after school commencement date) – December	January – Term 2
January (up to and including the school commencement date) – February	April – Term 3

*Children must be 3 before taking up their funded place. This means that children with August and January birthdays must be 3 years old by the first day of the new term.

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. See Appendix 2 for contact details of funded providers and childminders and the CARIS website www.families.scot

Currently the facility to purchase additional hours in North Ayrshire Council establishments is not available.

What about meals?

From August 2020, 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?

For children following Model 1, the nursery closure days for full year delivery are listed at Appendix 1.

Nurseries following Models 2 and 3 and children following a 38 week model will follow the North Ayrshire Council school term timetable for school holidays and in service days. For 2020-2021, 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 (£610 per month or less).

*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. Information is also available on the CARIS website: www.families.scot

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 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 in to their ELC establishment. However, during the settling 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 2020 this will commence 03 February 2020 and conclude on 06 February 2020. Applications received after 06 February will still be considered but there will be a reduced choice of dates and sessions available.

To apply for an early years place parents should contact their local ELC establishment (Local Authority or funded provider) to arrange a suitable time to complete an application form. This will include applications for childminding or blended model placements. Parents should ensure they bring their child's birth certificate at the time of making their application.

North Ayrshire Council ELC establishments, funded providers and childminders all offer a variety of provision for children aged 2-5 years. The application provides an opportunity to choose a model that suits your individual requirements and can be discussed when making your application.



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.

Any allocation of a place does not guarantee a 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 have a sibling in 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.

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 – 2020 Service Closure Dates – Early Learning and Childcare Service

Early Learning and Childcare Service

Closure days
1 January
2 January
07 February
10 February
11 February – In Service day
3 April – In Service day
10 April – Good Friday
13 April – Easter Monday
8 May (75th Anniversary of VE Day – 2020 only)
25 May
26 May – In Service day
17 August – In Service day
21 September– In Service day
19 October – In Service day
20 November
23 November
24 December
Staff in establishments – no children
25 December (Christmas Day)
28 December (Boxing Day)

Appendix 2 – North Ayrshire Council Establishments

	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 castleparknursery@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk	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 dalrynursery@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk	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 KA29 0BW	01475 568441
14	Garnock Valley Early Years Centre, St Bridget's PS Campus, Hagthorn Avenue, KILBIRNIE KA25 6EJ gw10garnockvalleyear@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk	01505 681322
15	Garnock Community Campus Primary Early Years, Beith Road, GLENGARNOCK KA14 3BF	01505 683667
16	Gateside Primary Early Years, Main Road, GATESIDE KA15 2LF	01505 502776
17	Glencairn Primary Early Years, New Street, STEVENSTON KA20 3HQ	01294 464376

	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 kilwinningnursery@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk	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 largseyc@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk	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 springvalenursery@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk	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

	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
Bradshaw Nursery Ltd	22 Bradshaw Street, SALTCOATS KA21 5HR	01294 471576
Bright Beginnings Nursery	Guide Hall, Muir Drive, IRVINE KA12 0NR	07977-557626
Brodick Nursery	Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8DL	01770 302367 07903-775898
Burnside House Nursery	Childcare Scotland, Burnside House, 24 Kilwinning Road, IRVINE KA12 8RU	01294 313180
Busy Bees Nursery	The James Moffat Centre, 187 Glasgow Street, ARDROSSAN KA22 8JY	01294 470892
Douglas Park Nursery	Cathcart Road, LARGS KA30 8JB	07971 523702
First Steps Nursery	216 Bank Street, IRVINE KA12 0YD	01294 212632
Little Deers Nursery	Buckreddan Care Centre, Irvine Road, KILWINNING KA13 7PF	01294 542700
Owl and Pussycat Too Nursery	1 Montgomery Lane, Harbourside, IRVINE KA12 8PS	01294 270700
Playtime Early Years	Dalry Community Centre, St Margaret Avenue, DALRY KA24 4BA	01294 833288 07881 883544
Rainbow Childcare	19 Howgate, KILWINNING KA13 6EN	01294 557651
Summerlea House Nursery	Childcare Scotland, 9 Union Street, LARGS KA30 8DG	01475 672011
The Yellow Brick Road Early Years Centre	St Columbas Church Hall, 13 Glasgow Street, KILBIRNIE KA25 7AP yellowbrickroad.eyc@yahoo.com	01505 227120 07796 618531
Treetops Nursery	83 Anderson Drive, IRVINE KA12 9HY	01294 312600
Treetops Too Private Nursery	Ailsa Road, SALTCOATS KA21 6LR	01294 607270
West Kilbride Early Years Centre	Community Centre, Corse Street, WEST KILBRIDE KA23 9AX	01294 829217
Whitehirst Park Private Nursery	West Doura Farm, Whitehirst Park, KILWINNING KA13 6NQ	01294 551171

Appendix 3 School timetable – including Arran

North Ayrshire Council – Education Service

School Holiday and In-Service Dates 2020/2021 (excluding Arran Schools)

Term	Dates of Attendance	Day	Date
Term 1	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	17-Aug-20
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	18-Aug-20
	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	21-Sep-20
	Close	Friday	09-Oct-20
Term 2	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	19-Oct-20
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	20-Oct-20
	Local Holiday	Friday	20-Nov-20
	Local Holiday	Monday	23-Nov-20
	Close	Wednesday	23-Dec-20
Term 3	Re-open	Wednesday	06-Jan-21
	Local Holiday	Friday	12-Feb-21
	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	15-Feb-21
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	16-Feb-21
	Close	Thursday	01-Apr-21
Term 4	Re-open	Monday	19-Apr-21
	May Day	Monday	03-May-21
	Teacher (In-Service)	Friday	28-May-21
	Local Holiday	Monday	31-May-21
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	01-Jun-21
	Close	Friday	25-Jun-21
21/22	Pupils Return	Wednesday	18-Aug-21

Pupils attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days

North Ayrshire Council – Education Service

Arran School Holiday and In-Service Dates 2020/2021

Term	Dates of Attendance	Day	Date
Term 1	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	17-Aug-20
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	18-Aug-20
	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	21-Sep-20
	Close	Friday	02-Oct-20
Term 2	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	19-Oct-20
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	20-Oct-20
	Close	Wednesday	23-Dec-20
Term 3	Re-open	Thursday	07-Jan-21
	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	15-Feb-21
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	16-Feb-21
	Close	Thursday	01-Apr-21
Term 4	Re-open	Monday	19-Apr-21
	May Day	Monday	03-May-21
	Teacher (In-Service)	Friday	28-May-21
	Close	Tuesday	29-Jun-21
21/22	Pupils Return	Wednesday	18-Aug-21

Pupils attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days

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.