

Early Learning and Childcare Shetland



Registration Guide for Parents and Carers

2026-2027

This booklet contains information about funded early learning and childcare for all three and four year olds and some two year olds.



Early Learning and Childcare

Our Vision:

'Children in Shetland have the very best early years of childhood – making Shetland the best place to grow up.'





Early Learning and Childcare

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Early Learning and Childcare

What is funded early learning and childcare?

From August 2020 every three and four year old, and some two year olds, in Shetland have been eligible to access up to 1140 hours per year of free early learning and childcare (ELC). Being part of a high-quality early learning and childcare setting will help children to learn and develop the skills and confidence to succeed in all areas of their lives.

This guide intends to provide all the information needed to make choices about the right early learning and childcare setting to meet the needs of your family.



Early Learning and Childcare

Is my child eligible?

Three and Four Year Olds

All children born between 1 March 2023 and the 29 February 2024 are eligible for up to 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare.

Two-Year Olds

A two year old may be eligible to a funded place if you meet one or more of the criteria on the following page.

If my child is eligible, when can they start?

Three and Four Year Olds

If the child's third birthday falls between 1 March 2026 and 18 August 2026, they will be eligible to start their placement from 19 August 2026.

If the child's third birthday falls between 19 August 2026 and 28 February 2027, they will be eligible to start their placement from the day after their birthday.

Two-Year Olds

All eligible two year olds will be able to start the day after their second birthday (once the placement has been confirmed).



Early Learning and Childcare

What is the qualifying criteria for two year olds?

Children aged two years old could be eligible for funded early learning and childcare if they live in a household where a parent or carer is:

- in receipt of certain benefits (listed below); or
- care experienced

Eligible benefits are:

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (Support for Asylum Seekers)

If you receive Universal Credit, you can earn a certain amount of money and still be eligible. These income thresholds change annually.

From 1 April 2025, if you are on Universal Credit, then your total household take-home pay can be £850 a month or less.

Your take-home pay is your earnings from any employment and can be found in the deduction section of your statement.



Early Learning and Childcare

Care experienced parents, carers and children

Two year olds are eligible for a funded placement if they are, or have been at any point:

- Looked after
- Under a Kinship Care Order
- Under a Guardianship Order

Care experienced parents and carers are now eligible to apply for funded early learning and childcare for their two year old child. 'Care experience' includes individuals who have previously lived in:

- Foster Care
- Kinship Care
- Residential Care
- Those who have been subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order through the Children's Hearing (looked after at home/away from home)



Early Learning and Childcare

Where can my child receive funded early learning and childcare?

There is a list of all early learning and childcare providers within this guidance. There are no catchment areas for early learning and childcare* so you can select any provider that you feel will best meet your needs. You can choose one provider or you can select more than one.

*Please note that whilst there are no catchment areas for early learning and childcare, when your child starts school, catchment areas do apply.

Not all providers are registered for two year olds. The list of providers will detail the age group they cater for. If there is not a provider on the list that meets your needs, or if you would like to discuss your options, please contact the Early Learning and Childcare Team via e-mail: ELC@shetland.gov.uk or phone: (01595) 744074.

We would recommend that you contact your preferred early learning and childcare setting to discuss any questions you have before completing the registration form. It is often helpful to visit a setting before making a decision.

How many hours can my child receive?

Every three and four year old, and some two year olds, are entitled to up to 1140 hours per year of free early learning and childcare.

This equates to up to 30 hours per week term time (over 38 weeks per year) or 23 hours per week year-round (over 50 weeks per year).



Early Learning and Childcare

What if my child has an additional support need?

We are committed to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and appropriate support will be put in place to meet their individual needs. It is important that information on any additional needs your child may have is highlighted on your registration form. It is also useful to speak to your chosen provider as soon as your place has been confirmed.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Ability Shetland and will be able to offer children access to their holiday club **as part** of their funded provision. Ability Shetland's Holiday Club is for children and young people with a disability or additional support needs. If you choose to use the club during the holiday period, you will be able to use some of your allocated hours towards this. This will mean that you do not pay to access the club. Please contact the Early Learning and Childcare Team via e-mail: ELC@shetland.gov.uk, phone: (01595) 744074 or contact Ability Shetland on 01595 743922 for further information.



Early Learning and Childcare

Are snacks and meals provided?

Children who are in a setting over lunchtime will be offered a free lunch. A copy of a sample menu can be viewed upon request at the setting of your choice.

Parents and carers can also opt to provide their child with a packed lunch. There are no facilities to warm lunches and there may be restrictions on what food types can be brought in.

Snacks will be provided for your child free of charge.

Can I get transport to the setting?

Parents and carers are responsible for taking children to their setting. If parents and carers are having difficulties in doing this, please talk to the one of the Early Learning and Childcare Team via e-mail: ELC@shetland.gov.uk or phone: (01595) 744074.



Early Learning and Childcare

How do I access a place?

Registrations will open on Friday 13 February 2026 and will close on Friday 20 February 2026. During this time, you need to complete the **online** registration form and ensure that it is submitted by **6pm on Friday 20 February 2026** to be included in the initial placing allocations.

Online registration forms can be accepted after this deadline, but it may reduce your chances of getting the provision you would like.

As part of the online registration process you will be required to submit a photograph of your child's birth certificate. This will be used to verify their date of birth.

If you are registering an eligible two year old you will also be required to submit relevant supporting documentation online.

If you have any difficulties completing the online form, please contact a member of the Early Learning and Childcare Team for support.

We will write to you by 30 April 2026 to confirm your placement. Your details will be passed on to the provider(s) who will contact you about what happens next.



Early Learning and Childcare

Will I get the place I ask for?

We will do everything we can to arrange the provision you have asked for. If it is not possible, we will contact you to discuss alternative arrangements. Allocations are made in accordance with the Shetland Island Council's Admissions Policy which can be found using this link: [Admissions Policy](#).

My child is already registered. Do I need to register again?

All eligible two-year-olds **must** re-register as a three year old using the registration form for three and four year olds.

If your three or four year old has accessed up to 1140 of funded entitlement the previous year, you **do not** need to register them again and your previous weekly pattern will remain, unless you complete the change of pattern form which will be emailed to you from your child's setting.

Deferring entry into primary 1

Parents and carers of children who have not yet turned five by 19 August 2026 will have an automatic right to defer the entry of their child into primary 1. Any child who turns five before 19 August 2026 will be expected to transition into primary 1.

All parents and carers wishing to defer their child's entry into primary 1 must complete the online deferred entry form found [here](#).

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss deferring their child's entry with their early learning and childcare setting. The deadline for deferred entry applications is 15 March 2026.



Early Learning and Childcare

What are the term time dates?

School Term Dates 2026/27

Term 1	Wednesday 19 August 2026 to Friday 9 October 2026
Term 2	Wednesday 28 October 2026 to Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3	Tuesday 05 January 2027 to Wednesday 24 March 2027
Term 4	Wednesday 07 April 2027 to Friday 02 July 2027
Occasional Holiday Dates	In-Service Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wednesday 27 January 2027Friday 12 February 2027Monday 15 February 2027Friday 21 May 20271 floating day to be set by schools within their clusters, in consultation with Parent Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 17 August 2026Tuesday 18 August 2026Monday 26 October 2026Tuesday 27 October 2026Tuesday 16 February 2027

Please note that if you are using a term time model, there will be no funded provision on in-service days or occasional holidays.

If you are using a year-round model, you can access funded provision on all days except the following:

- Monday 21 December 2026 to Monday 4 January 2027
- Wednesday 27 January 2027
- Monday 29 March 2027



Early Learning and Childcare

Where can I get more information and support?

We are here to help! We recognise that the different options may be complex. Please do not hesitate to contact us for help.

Further information and support is available from any early learning or childcare setting or by contacting the Early Learning and Childcare Team at Children's Services via e-mail: ELC@shetland.gov.uk or phone: (01595) 744074.



Early Learning and Childcare

How can I use my entitlement?

There are a number of options available to help you get the most out of your funded hours:

Term time only (*up to 30 hours per week over 38 weeks per year*)

If you would like term time only you can opt for a number of hours that suit your needs. The hours you choose must be across one block of time each day. The pattern that you choose can vary from day to day, but your weekly term time pattern must remain the same.

Year-round (*up to 23 hours per week over 50 weeks per year*)

There are a limited number of settings that can offer year-round provision. If you require year-round provision, you should choose one of these providers. You can opt for a number of hours that suit your needs. The hours you choose must be across one block of time each day. The pattern that you choose can vary from day to day, but your weekly pattern must remain the same year-round.

Split Placements

You can choose to have a split placement between two or more settings. This can be on a term time only basis, a year-round basis or a mix of the two. You can opt for a number of hours that suit your needs. The hours you choose at each provider must be across one block of time each day. The pattern that you choose can vary from day to day, but your weekly pattern must remain the same.

Blended Provision (Childminder and Setting)

You can choose to apply for a blended model between a setting and a registered childminder. Blended placements are limited but we will make every effort to try and meet your needs.

Attendance patterns **must be set with a weekly recurring pattern**. Ad hoc changes to patterns cannot be accommodated. Should your circumstances change, you can request to change your set weekly pattern at any time. All requests to make changes to a pattern must be approved by the central Early Learning and Childcare Team prior to commencement.



Early Learning and Childcare Providers

You can choose any of the following settings for three and four year olds and some settings also offer places for eligible two year olds. To register for a place, please use the registration form for three and four year olds or the form for eligible two year olds, both of which can be found online at www.shetland.gov.uk/early-learning-childcare

Setting	Contact Details	Opening/Closing Time	Year-Round or Term Time	Protected Lunchtime
<i>*Accepts eligible two year olds</i>		<i>All settings operate 5 days per week (Monday to Friday)</i>	YR / TT	<i>No pick-ups or drop-offs during these times</i>
Aith Nursery	01595 807400	8.15am to 4.15pm	TT	11.45am to 1.15pm
Baltasound JHS Early Years*	01595 807020	8.30am to 4.00pm	TT	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Bell's Brae Nursery	01595 743720	8.30am to 4.30pm	TT	11.45am to 1.15pm
Brae High School Nursery*	01595 745601	8.30am to 4.30pm	YR/TT	11.45am to 1.00pm
Burra Early Years	01595 859451	8.30am to 3.00pm	TT	N/A
Cunningsburgh Nursery	01595 807250	8.30am to 4.30pm	TT	11.45am to 1.00pm
Dunrossness Nursery	01595 745440	8.15am to 4.15pm	TT	11.45am to 1.15pm
Fair Isle Early Years*	01595 747246	By arrangement	TT	N/A
Foula Early Years*	01595 745026	By arrangement	TT	N/A
Hame fae Hame*	01595 881146	7.30am to 6.00pm	YR/TT	N/A
Happyhansel Early Years	01595 807458	8.30am to 4.00pm	TT	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Lerwick Early Learning and Childcare*	01595 745398 / 745402	8.45am to 5.00pm	YR/TT	12.00pm to 1.30pm
Lunnasting Nursery	01595 745690	8.45am to 3.00pm	TT	12.15pm to 1.15pm
Mid Yell JHS Nursery*	01595 745050	8.45am to 3.45pm	TT	12.00pm to 1.00pm

Continued on next page →



Early Learning and Childcare Providers

Setting	Contact Details	Opening/Closing Time	Year Round or Term Time	Protected Lunchtime
<i>*Accepts eligible two year olds</i>		<i>All settings operate 5 days per week (Monday to Friday)</i>	YR / TT	<i>No pick-ups or drop-offs during these times</i>
<i>Mossbank Early Years*</i>	01595 807280	<i>8.15am to 4.15pm</i>	TT	<i>12.45pm to 1.45pm</i>
<i>Peerie Foxes*</i>	01595 696696	<i>7.45am to 5.30pm</i>	YR/TT	<i>12.00pm to 12.45pm</i>
<i>Sandwick Early Years</i>	01595 745320	<i>8.30am to 4.30pm</i>	YR/TT	<i>11.45am to 1.15pm</i>
<i>Early Years Scalloway</i>	01595 743777	<i>8.15am to 4.15pm</i>	TT	<i>11.45am to 1.15pm</i>
<i>Sound Nursery</i>	01595 744982	<i>8.30am to 4.30pm</i>	TT	<i>11.45am to 1.15pm</i>
<i>Tingwall Nursery</i>	01595 807224	<i>8.30am to 4.30pm</i>	TT	<i>11.45am to 1.15pm</i>
<i>Urafirth Early Years</i>	01595 807460	<i>8.30am to 4.00pm</i>	TT	<i>11.45am to 12.45pm</i>
<i>Whalsay Early Years</i>	01595 743800	<i>8.15am to 4.15pm</i>	TT	<i>11.45am to 1.00pm</i>
<i>Whiteness Early Years</i>	01595 745380	<i>8.15am to 4.15pm</i>	TT	<i>12.15pm to 1.30pm</i>

Please note that most ELC settings have a protected lunch time. This means that no children can be dropped off or picked up during a specified period of time. This is to ensure that children have a high-quality lunch time experience.

Childminders who offer funded provision

Provider Name	Contact Details	Provision Ages and Times
<i>Hazel Smith (Dunrossness)*</i>	01950 460541	<i>Times by arrangement</i>
<i>Sarah Munro (Dunrossness)*</i>	01950 460770	<i>Times by arrangement</i>

All settings and childminders providing funded early learning and childcare must meet the National Standard to ensure provision is of high-quality.



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Aith Nursery

Aith Nursery is part of Aith Junior High School, located on the west side of Shetland. We are a busy nursery at the centre of an active community with the beach and local woods nearby. We have a knowledgeable and dedicated staff team, are well supported by local families and are registered to take up to 32 children.

At Aith Nursery we believe that every child is unique and develops in their own time, the early years is not a race or competition but a journey full of fun and adventure. We aim to nurture happy and curious children who know they are valued by those around them and are supported to grow and reach their full potential.

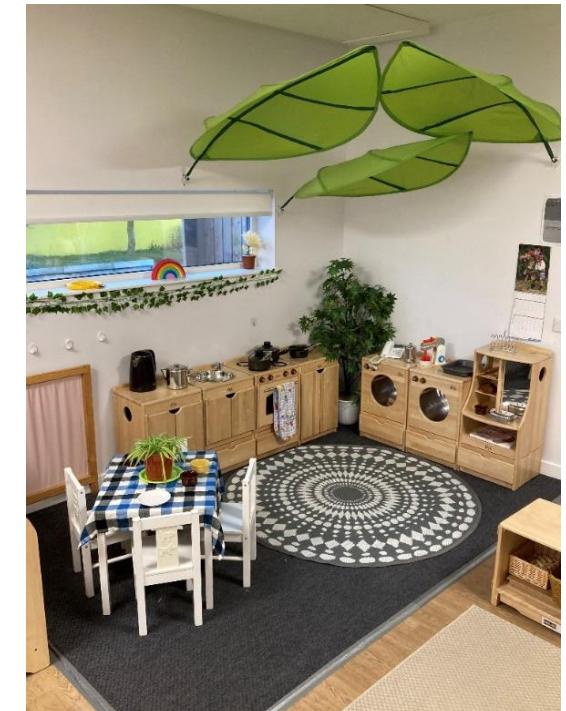
Every area of our early years curriculum is based around play, offering creative learning experiences every day with children's interests and needs at the centre of our practice. Care, play and learning at Aith Nursery was recognised as 'Very Good' on a recent visit from the Care Inspectorate.



Inclusive : Safe : Ready : Respectful : Achieve

Aith Nursery is a caring community where it is safe to try new things, we are kind to each other, ready to play and learn new things.

Aith Nursery is open from 8.15am to 4.15pm Monday to Friday and has a protected lunchtime between 11.45am to 1.15pm.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Baltasound JHS Early Years

Baltasound Junior High School is the most northerly school in the United Kingdom. We are a fully inclusive school, with early years to secondary 4 students all on the same campus. A diverse and enterprising school, we pride ourselves as being part of a dynamic island community with students, staff and parents all working together. Our motto is:

Peerie School, Big Dreams!

This reflects that we are a small rural school on the most northerly island in the UK; although we are able to progress through our school and become anyone we dare or dream to be.



At Baltasound Early Years we aim to work together with parents and carers, to ensure that all children feel valued, safe, secure and happy. We offer provision for learners starting at two years old, until they start primary 1 and have close links with the rest of the school. Play is an important part of our early years curriculum and we offer free flow play from inside to outside.

Our school values are READY, SAFE and RESPECTFUL. We believe that these encompass what we need to be an active member of our community and to make sure we are equipped with all the skills required in life. If we are ready, safe and respectful then we can be in the best position to learn and grow. We promote a culture of tolerance, inclusion, diversity, equality, fairness and opportunity.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Bell's Brae Nursery

Bell's Brae Nursery is a large setting with free flow access to our indoor/outdoor area and nursery outdoor area. We have capacity for 65 children.

Our vision statement says that; *"Bell's Brae is a community where everyone achieves and gains happy memories."*

Therefore, we want to make sure that attending Bell's Brae is a happy and enjoyable experience for every child from the very beginning. For this reason, communication and partnership between home and nursery is essential. We value parents' and carers' knowledge of their child, and we strive to work collaboratively to ensure positive interactions, experiences and spaces for all children.



'Every child has the right to play'

In line with Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we promote and value that all children have the right to participate in and lead their play.

Within the nursery, we have three zones – social (e.g. role play, games table), creative (e.g. sand and water tray, art area) and outdoors/discovery (e.g. indoor/outdoor area, blocks, garden). Staff observe children and ensure that the resources in each zone reflect their interests, supporting high-quality interactions, experiences and spaces. *Play is essential to healthy development from birth to adulthood, contributing to capacity for learning, resilience and the development of physical, cognitive, social and emotional skills.*



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Brae High School Nursery

Brae High School's vision is to create a 'Learning Community' that is nurturing, supportive, ambitious and enables all children and young people to thrive.

Brae Nursery offers places for children aged two to five years. Brae Nursery is part of Brae High School. We work closely with the school, and this supports transition from nursery to school.

We have a very spacious main room, breakout spaces, kitchen area and outdoor areas. We have established zones within our continuous provision, these are:



- Art and Craft
- Sensory and Discovery
- Role Play
- Construction
- Story (Literacy)
- Outdoors
- Embedded Messaging – The aim of this is to have opportunities for mark making embedded throughout all zones in the nursery. The children will have opportunities to write and read at all times.

The nursery has many stimulating and challenging resources, aiming to be appropriate for the children within the nursery. Staff regularly reflect on how the resources and areas are being used and take a responsive approach on developing the setting.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Burra Early Years

Here at Burra, we see ourselves as a well-established integral part of the local community. We strive to create a homely nurturing environment that is child-centred, fostering learning through the children's natural curiosity and interests.

We operate school term time Monday to Friday 8.30am – 3.00pm





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Cunningsburgh Nursery

Cunningsburgh School's vision that everyone should "SHINE" starts with our very youngest learners. We want everyone to be **Successful, Happy, Independent, Nurtured and Engaged**.

The homely environment at Cunningsburgh Nursery provides safe, stimulating spaces where the children can confidently lead their own learning by being curious and developing independence. All with love, care and dedicated support from our experienced staff team.

We recognise the importance of high-quality play and real-life experiences in all children's learning and development. These are enhanced through opportunities within the setting, both inside and outdoors, and by exploring our wider community and all that it has to offer.

Parents and families are partners in both their children's journey and that of the setting and we value all the knowledge, skills and support they provide.

We truly are a home from home that encourages all our children to get the most out of each and every day.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Dunrossness Nursery

Our nursery setting offers a caring and nurturing environment where children feel safe to be curious and creative, explore and communicate. The learning occurs through play inside and outside, which is child-led, where we follow the child's interests.

The skilled staff in nursery are able to observe the children at play and support and extend their play, sometimes standing back, sometimes intervening to extend or offer ideas. The staff are experienced in planning in the moment and using questioning or suggestions to extend learning. We focus on the learning process, not the product.

The nursery is very much part of the school, and the children have many opportunities to become used to the whole school building and the wider school community.



Staff are available daily and are delighted to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Our school's ethos:

Living Laughing Learning

A caring, happy school that nurtures, encourages and supports every individual to **Determinedly Pursue Success** in all areas of their lives.



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Fair Isle Early Years

At Fair Isle Early Years, our aim is to nurture and support each individual child on their unique learning journey. Our small island community and small setting size, allow staff to work very closely with children and their families. We create a welcoming, positive and supportive environment where children feel safe, happy and inquisitive. High-quality interactions, experiences and spaces allow curious minds to flourish.

Our indoor area is well-resourced and spacious. We have access to the adjacent community play park and a large playground with climbing apparatus. Our school garden features a mud kitchen and large sand area. Vegetables and some fruits are grown in our raised bed and fruit cage. Healthy produce is enjoyed in school lunches or as a snack. We have an outdoor shed that was recently adapted into a sheltered learning space. Fair Isle provides a rich source of outdoor exploration and enjoyment through local walks or community visits.

FAIR and friendly
Inspired to do our best
Self-belief
Learning together
Empathy





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Foula Early Years

Foula Early Years is at the “Edge of the World” – a peerie island 20 miles west of the Shetland mainland. Children have time and space to play and explore in the indoor and outdoor environment with caring and nurturing staff who are attentive to individual needs. There are frequent opportunities to learn from others in the community, utilising local skills and expertise.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Hame fae Hame

Hame Fae Hame has been providing trusted childcare in Scalloway for over a decade, founded by Kaye Sandison the nursery now supports families from across Shetland.

Our well-staffed nursery is well established, being an essential part of the local Shetland community. We believe in giving children the best possible start in life, and to that end our day nursery focuses on each child as an individual, encouraging them to learn and grow in ways that attend to their particular needs.

Please refer to our website for more information - www.hamefaehame.co.uk





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Happyhansel Early Years

In Happyhansel Early Years we aim to get to know all the children as individuals through nurturing relationships and positive interactions. This, along with working in partnership with our families, supports us in providing child-led play activities, carefully structured experiences (indoors and outdoors), appropriate challenge and skill-based learning. Situated in the centre of Walls we regularly explore our local community and join the wider school, supporting smooth transitions and continuous learning.

At Happyhansel all pupils have access to make the most of high-quality learning opportunities. Together we encourage each other to strive and achieve.



"A Hansel fir Aa"

H A P P Y
Achieving
Nurtured
Safe
Engaged
Learners



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Lerwick Early Learning and Childcare

Lerwick Early Learning and Childcare offer term time, year-round and extended provision for two to five year olds. The setting is spacious and bright, and children have opportunities for open-ended play throughout the indoor environment and large outdoor spaces.

With our central location in Lerwick, we offer opportunities to link to the local community through nature walks, trips to the Shetland Library and other local amenities.

We provide excellent opportunities for open-ended play with small and large loose parts both indoors and outside. Children are encouraged to use their imagination and enhance their natural desire to explore and learn.

We strive to offer the highest quality of early learning and childcare provision through providing a safe and nurturing environment, where all children and families are respected, included and supported to thrive.



Our Values



Inclusion – We value all children as individuals and recognise their fundamental right to play and learn

Nurture – We value nurturing and trusting relationships with our children, families, staff and the wider community

Respect – We value the right for everyone to be treated with dignity and respect

Growth – We value the importance of an environment that provides thoughtful interactions, rich experiences and engaging spaces to enable all children to reach their full potential



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Lunnasting Nursery

In Lunnasting Nursery, we aim to develop the whole child through a variety of activities, both indoor and out, as well as encouraging individual interests. The nursery is situated within Lunnasting Primary School and is very well resourced. We regularly join in with whole school activities, which allows for a seamless transition from nursery to primary 1.

We truly value the benefits to children when parents and carers are involved in their education, and we work hard to build good relationships. Parents and carers are always welcome to visit the nursery to speak with staff, share information and discuss learning.

The nursery and school are at the heart of the community, and we value community activities, open days and exploring our community. We have been improving our outdoor area, and our staff have lots of great ideas for established and new learning ideas, following the bairns' interests.

The nursery is open from 8.45am to 3.00pm each day. There is capacity for 12 children.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Mid Yell JHS Nursery

Our nursery is an important part of both our school and local community. We support children from the ages of two to five years, during term time, offering attractive spaces to play and learn both outdoors and indoors.

As a Silver Rights Respecting School, we value a child's right to rest, relax, play and take part in cultural and creative activities. Our spaces, and planned experiences, offer children opportunities to enjoy and explore this right.

Our school Vision –

Learning at the heart of our ISLAND

Inclusive, Supportive, Learning, Aspirational, Nurturing, Developing

– is reflected within our continuous provision, our interactions and the experiences we offer. Our experienced staff offer a warm welcome and are keen to support every child as they make their journey through early years.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Mossbank Early Years

Mossbank Primary School and Early Years is an integral part of our local community, and our wraparound care facility supports parents and carers from the locality and beyond. We provide care for children aged two to five years, from 8.15am - 4.15pm, term time. This includes a funded early learning and childcare session for registered children.

We aim to offer a warm welcoming and stimulating learning environment where children's needs are paramount. The staff firmly believe that it is important to build strong, positive and open relationships between home and childcare. We feel this is the most successful way to help each child develop to the best of their ability.



In the ELC setting there is a strong emphasis on learning through play with an investigative approach. Children are encouraged and supported to:

- Actively explore their world both indoors and outdoors
- Discover new information
- Develop language and critical thinking skills
- Apply their ideas in meaningful ways
- Develop social and emotional skills



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Peerie Foxes

Peerie Foxes is committed to giving your child the support to thrive and develop from our Lerwick based playrooms. Using the medium of play, alongside responsive staff support, love and respect we will work with and for you to ensure your child's needs are met and your expectations exceeded.

We're here for you from 7:45am to 5:30pm, 50 weeks of the year.

Here are some pictures of our adventures during 2024.

Together we: Play, sing, leap, run, explore, jump, splash, cuddle, soar, cook, dress-up, share stories, draw, paint, get messy, create memories and more!





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Sandwick Early Years

Sandwick Early Years is open 50 weeks of the year, providing for children aged between three to five years. We offer parents and carers the opportunity to purchase additional hours, above their funded entitlement. We are based in Sandwick Junior High School, working closely with the school and taking part in activities, supporting a smooth transition from the nursery into primary 1.

Sandwick Early Years has a child-led approach, giving children the opportunity to lead on their own learning, developing their learning through play.

We aim to provide free flow play, where the children can choose whether to play in the spacious main room of the nursery, or our large outdoor area. We provide all-weather suits to ensure the children are always suitably prepared whatever the weather, supporting outdoor play in all seasons.

Staff observe the children in their play and extend learning through interactions and evaluating and developing the nursery setting. Parents and carers can see their child's progression in nursery through the children's individual learning stories.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Early Years Scalloway

Our main aims and values are to provide a warm, safe and nurturing environment. We offer high-quality learning experiences in all areas of our setting, using natural/real resources and loose parts. We offer resources that provoke curiosity and spaces that are cosy and homely.

We have an open-door policy and have continuous access to nature, the outdoors and the local community. Our ethos values parental engagement and we fully support communication, collaboration and inclusion. We believe in a child-centred approach to play, learning and development with children's rights at our core.

Our staff are committed to continuous professional development, are welcoming and are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council.

Our school values are - **Safe, Kind and Respect**

Our vision and aims are – **Believe and you will Achieve**





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Sound Nursery

Working together to improve outcomes for learners to be the best that they can be.

Sound Nursery is an inclusive and nurturing environment where children have free flow access to indoor and outdoor spaces, where they can lead their learning. Children have opportunities to experience high-quality continuous provision based on their interests and needs. We are committed to working with families to ensure that your child makes progress and develops confidence to lead their learning. We have an open-door policy and welcome the opportunity to chat with you at any time.

We use the school environment as part of our nursery provision. We access spaces across the school, including the library, gym hall, sensory spaces and school grounds, all which enhance the children's experiences and support transition to school.

Incredible Years underpins our nurturing approach and staff use the strategies actively in the setting. Our nursery rules are based on our nursery and school values. Almost all staff have completed Incredible Years training at the Shetland Family Centre. We also reflect the UNCRC rights in our practice and these are highlighted in our play statement.



Our Nursery and School values are:

Determination Happiness Inclusion Safe Respect

We are open from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

Please visit our Nursery blog to find out more information:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/soundnursery/>



Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Tingwall Nursery

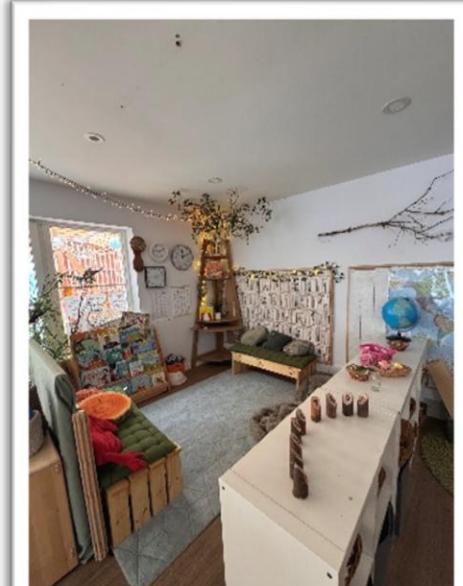
At Tingwall Nursery, we believe every child deserves a welcoming, cosy, and nurturing environment where they feel safe, considered and valued.

Our child-centred approach promotes independence, confidence, and happiness, supporting our children to be themselves as they explore their interests.

Through inspiring learning experiences, we encourage curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving, empowering children to have fun leading their own learning.

We promote positive, caring and empathetic relationships both in and outwith the setting. By exploring our local community, we learn to respect our surroundings.

We are committed to cultivating engaged, confident young explorers who develop a lifelong love for learning.



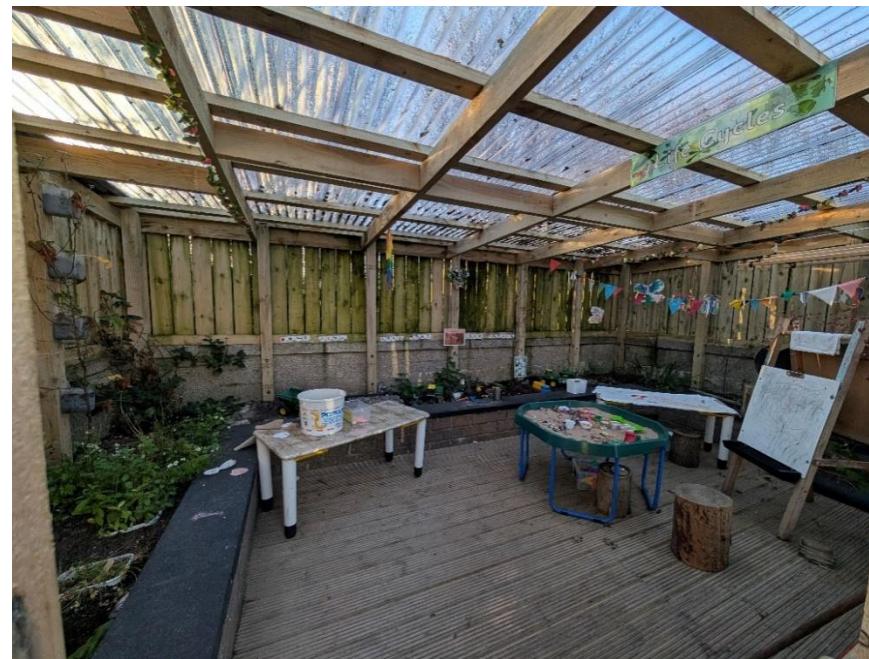


Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Urafirth Early Years

Wir Promise to Wir Peerie Folk is to provide an **Enriching Environment**, to encourage and support **Play**, to ensure everyone feels **Respected** and heard, to build **Relationships** with bairns and their families, and to always ensure a **Child-Centred** approach.

Urafirth Early Years is a warm, welcoming and nurturing nursery, with a home-from-home feel. We encourage child-led learning through a wide range of equipment and resources which are freely available, promoting independence and self-confidence. We encourage a balance between outdoor and indoor play, giving children chances to experience our wider variety of areas of discovery and to learn and engage with nature.





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Whalsay Early Years

Whalsay ELC Values:

- We want our pupils to feel **belonging** through their child-led experiences and inclusion in decision-making, as well as the security of belonging to a strong community
- We support our pupils to **enjoy** their learning using a play-pedagogy approach based on their interests
- We aim to maximise children's **creativity** through child-led learning and carefully planned resources
- Our children are nurtured to support with their emotional and mental **health** whilst physical health is largely supported through outdoor play
- We encourage pupils to take **responsibility** for themselves, their environment and the world around them

You can find more information on our nursery blog [here](#).





Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare Settings

Whiteness Early Years

Our Promise - At Whiteness we aim to have:

An **environment** that: is neutral, welcoming and stimulating; provides opportunity for curiosity and creativity within problem solving; has clutter free space to play; offers opportunity to experience outdoor play every day.

Resources that are: real and do not give children false impression; open ended and allow for elements of risky play.



Play and learning which: is child-led with some adult support; is developmentally appropriate to each individual; allows elements of risk and real-life experiences; gives opportunity to lead learning and become independent thinkers.

Practitioners who: are qualified and have strong Continuous Professional Development; are open minded and forward thinking; know the children well as individual learners; ask open questions and speak to children at floor level; do not rush children or interrupt play.

High-quality early learning and childcare is fundamental in developing skills for life and learning. Your child will develop these skills through carefully planned environments, access to rich core provision and interactions with peers and adults.

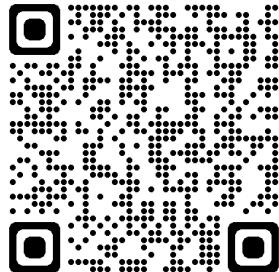




Early Learning and Childcare

Link to online registration form

To register please go to www.shetland.gov.uk/education and click on Early Learning and Childcare.



If you would like any further information about any of the options available, please contact a member of the Early Learning and Childcare Team:

E-mail: ELC@shetland.gov.uk

Phone: (01595) 744074

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. We hope you found it helpful and informative.