

# All About the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare

Improving life through learning





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\*Throughout this document the term parent refers to both parent and carers.

# 1 What is the expansion of early learning and childcare?

Early learning and childcare (ELC) in Scotland is undergoing transformative change. Currently the annual entitlement to free ELC provision is 600 hours per year (or just under 16 hours a week over 38 weeks) for all three and four year olds, and for eligible two year olds. This will almost double to an entitlement of 1140 hours per year by 2020.

## 2 Why is this happening?

The expansion of ELC is a government priority. It has two main policy aims: to improve outcomes for children and to support parents (particularly mothers) into employment. The Scottish Government has published a new National Standard which will apply to all ELC providers from August 2020. The National Standard will ensure all settings offering funding ELC will meet the same minimum criteria for quality, this includes local authority nurseries, private and voluntary nurseries and playgroups and childminders.

## 3 What does this mean for me?

Stirling Council has committed to providing 1140 hours of funded ELC for children aged 3-5 and eligible 2 year olds, in line with a “provider neutral” model. The purpose of this model is to allow families to access their entitlement with the provider of their choice, as long as that provider meets the criteria set out in the National Standard and is contracted with Stirling Council to offer the entitlement in-line with our early learning and childcare delivery plan.

You will be entitled to 1140 hours per year of funded childcare if you have a three or four year old child. You could also be entitled to this if you have a two year old child provided you meet certain eligibility criteria. The criteria for funded two year old places is explained in Section 14.

You will be able to access your funded hours weekly and you will be entitled to 25 free hours a week or 30 free hours a week depending on the number of weeks the nursery is open over the year. You can choose to take this in different ways, full days or half days or a combination of both. Section 6 explains your options in more detail.

## 4 When will this happen?

The entitlement to 1140 funded ELC hours will be available across all Stirling Council local authority nurseries, funded provider nurseries, playgroups and funded provider childminders by August 2020. The free entitlement will be rolled out on a phased basis by learning community, prioritising areas of higher deprivation.

**There will be three phases:**

- **Phase 1:** From August 2018
- **Phase 2:** From August 2019
- **Phase 3:** From August 2020

Phase 1 has already started and Stirling Council is offering 1140 free hours in the following local authority nurseries.

<b>Phase 1: August 2018 – Local Authority Nurseries</b>	
Cowie	Bannockburn
Park Drive	Bannockburn
Bannockburn	Bannockburn
East Plean	Bannockburn
Doune	McLaren

In addition, you can access your funded hours with any of our funded provider nurseries or childminders. In phase 1 these are:

<b>Phase 1: August 2018 – Funded Provider Nurseries</b>	
The Meadows	Bannockburn
Red Kite Community Nursery	McLaren

A list of childminder providers offering 1140 is available from the [SCMA](#) (Scottish Childminding Association) or from [The Family Information Service website](#) and [Stirling Council's website](#).

### **SCMA Contact details**

7 Melville Terrace  
Stirling  
FK8 2ND  
01786 445377

## 5 When will other settings be offering the additional funded hours?

More nurseries will be offering 1140 hours in phase 2 and 3. These will include local authority nurseries, funded provider nurseries and childminders. There will be 17 local authority nurseries in phase 2 and these are shown in the table below.

<b>Phase 2: August 2019 – Local Authority Nurseries</b>	
Braehead	Bannockburn
Crianlarich	McLaren
Killin	McLaren
Aberfoyle	McLaren
Callander	McLaren
Cambusbarron	Stirling
Baker Street	Stirling
Hillview	Stirling
Wellgreen	Stirling
Borestone	Stirling
St Ninians	Stirling
Castleview (ASN Provision)	Stirling
Cornton	Wallace
Fallin	Wallace
Raploch	Wallace
Bridge of Allan	Wallace
Riverside	Wallace

The funded provider nurseries listed in the table on the next page will also be given the opportunity to offer 1140 funded hours as part of phase 2.

## Phase 2: August 2019 – Funded Provider Nurseries

*Arnhall Nursery	Dunblane
Bright Beginnings Nursery	Stirling
Cambusbarron Playgroup	Stirling
Lecropt Nursery	Wallace
Bright Starts Nursery	Wallace
Little Stars Nursery	Wallace

\*Although Arnhall Nursery is in the Dunblane learning community, the majority of the eligible children enrolled are from the Stirling learning community. For this reason Arnhall will be part of Phase 2.

The remaining 9 local authority nurseries will offer 1140 hours from phase 3 in August 2020 and these are detailed in the table below.

## Phase 3: August 2020 – Local Authority Nurseries

Fintry	Balfron
Killearn	Balfron
Arnprior	Balfron
Croftamie	Balfron
Strathblane	Balfron
Balfron	Balfron
St Mary's Episcopal	Dunblane
Dunblane	Dunblane
Newton	Dunblane

The following funded provider nurseries will be given the opportunity to offer 1140 hours as part of phase 3.

## Phase 3: August 2020 – Funded Provider Nurseries

Heron House Nursery	Balfron
Mulberry Bush Montessori Nursery	Balfron
Dunblane Nature Kindergarten	Dunblane
Old Doune Road Nursery	Dunblane

## 6 How will the funded sessions work?

We have listened to the needs of our families and as a result, many local authority nurseries will all be open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. There will be three operating models in the local authority settings, as detailed below.

### Model 1: 47.8 week

These settings will be open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm for 47.8 weeks a year.

### Model 2: 45.6 week

These settings will be open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm for 45.6 weeks a year.

### Model 3: 37.6 week

These settings will be open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm or 9.00 am to 3.05 pm over term time only.

The majority of local authority nurseries will be in either model 1 or model 2 and will be open either 47.8 weeks a year or 45.6 weeks a year.



## Local Authority Sessions: Models 1 and 2 (open 47.8 weeks or 45.6 weeks)

- You will be entitled to 25 funded hours a week.
- A full day session will be 10 hours (8.00 am to 6.00 pm).
- A morning session will be 5 hours (8.00 am to 1.00 pm).
- An afternoon session will be 5 hours (1.00 pm to 6.00 pm).

All new enrolments will be based on the new session times above. The session times will be the same for all children in the nursery aged 0-5 years as the nursery is phased in.

The table below provides details of the nurseries in model 1 which are open 47.8 weeks from 8 am to 6 pm.

<b>Open 47.8 weeks, 8.00 am – 6.00 pm (Model 1)</b>		
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Learning Community</b>	<b>When</b>
Cowie	Bannockburn	August 2018
Park Drive	Bannockburn	August 2018
Killin	McLaren	August 2019
Baker Street	Stirling	August 2019
Hillview	Stirling	August 2019
Wellgreen	Stirling	August 2019
Cornton	Wallace	August 2019
Fallin	Wallace	August 2019
Raploch	Wallace	August 2019
Arnprior	Balfron	August 2020
Croftamie	Balfron	August 2020

The table below provides details of the nurseries in model 2 which are open 45.6 weeks from 8 am to 6 pm.

Open 45.6 weeks, 8.00 am – 6.00 pm (Model 2)		
Nursery	Learning Community	When
Bannockburn	Bannockburn	August 2018
East Plean	Bannockburn	August 2018
Doune	McLaren	August 2018
Braehead	Bannockburn	August 2019
Aberfoyle	McLaren	August 2019
Callander	McLaren	August 2019
Borestone	Stirling	August 2019
St Ninians	Stirling	August 2019
Bridge of Allan	Wallace	August 2019
Riverside	Wallace	August 2019
Strathblane	Balfron	August 2020
Balfron	Balfron	August 2020
Dunblane	Dunblane	August 2020
Newton	Dunblane	August 2020

The funded sessions will work the same in both model 1 and model 2 settings. The only difference being, in model 1 you can choose to contract for 47.8 weeks in line with the settings open weeks. In this case, the additional 2.2 weeks will be unfunded and chargeable at the session rates detailed in appendix 1. The cost of this will be spread over the term of your contract.

You can choose to take your funded hours in full days or half days or a combination of these. We have provided some examples below but it will be up to you to decide the sessions that best suit your circumstances and discuss these with the provider who will advise you on availability of sessions.

### Example 1: Model 1 and 2

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Funded Hours
<b>8.00 – 6.00</b>	✓	✓				20
<b>8.00 – 1.00</b>			✓			5
<b>1.00 – 6.00</b>						0
						<b>Total</b>
						<b>25</b>

## Example 2: Model 1 and 2

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Funded Hours
<b>8.00 – 6.00</b>	✓					10
<b>8.00 – 1.00</b>		✓				5
<b>1.00 – 6.00</b>			✓		✓	10
						<b>Total</b>
						<b>25</b>

### Example 3: Model 1 and 2

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Funded Hours
<b>8.00 – 6.00</b>						
<b>8.00 – 1.00</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	25
<b>1.00 – 6.00</b>						
<b>Total</b>						<b>25</b>

### Model 3: Local Authority Sessions: (37.6 weeks)

There will be some nurseries in model 3 and these will be open term time only, which is 37.6 weeks a year. They will be open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and one will be open just over 6 hours a day, 9.00 am to 3.05 pm.

<b>Open 37.6 weeks, 8.00 am – 6.00 pm (Model 3A)</b>		
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Learning Community</b>	<b>When</b>
Crianlarich	McLaren	August 2019
Cambusbarron	Stirling	August 2019
Castleview (ASN Provision)	Stirling	August 2019
Fintry	Balfron	August 2020
Killearn	Balfron	August 2020

<b>Open 37.6 weeks, 9.00 am – 3.05 pm (Model 3B)</b>		
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Learning Community</b>	<b>When</b>
St Mary's Episcopal	Dunblane	August 2020

<b>Model 3A: Open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm</b>	<b>Model 3B: Open 9.00 am to 3.00 pm</b>
<p>You will have up to 30 funded hours a week, plus 3 extra 5 hour sessions to be taken 1 each term. A full day session will be 10 hours (8.00 am to 6.00 pm).  A morning session will be 5 hours (8.00 am to 1.00 pm).  An afternoon session will be 5 hours (1.00 pm to 6.00 pm).</p>	<p>You will have up to 30 funded hours a week. A full day session will be 6 hours (9.00 am to 3.00 pm or as advised by the nursery). There will be no half day sessions.</p>

## Model 3A: 8.00 am to 6.00 pm (37.6 weeks)

You can choose to take your funded hours in full days or half days or a combination of these. It will be up to you to decide the sessions that best suit your circumstances and discuss these with the setting who will advise you on availability of sessions. In this model, in order to receive your full entitlement to 1140 hours, you will be eligible for one free extra session each term. Sessions are 5 hours long and you can take either an extra morning or afternoon session each term. Your 3 extra sessions (1 per term) should be booked and agreed with the nursery at the time you enrol your child, otherwise, the nursery may not be able to offer you the extra sessions at the time of your choice.

## Model 3B: 9.00 am to 3.05 pm (37.6 weeks)

As this setting will be open 6 hours and 5 minutes a day over term time full attendance would be 5 full days a week as shown in the example below.

### Example: Model 3

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Funded Hours
9.00 – 3.05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	30 hours 25 minutes
						<b>Total</b> <b>30 hours 25 minutes</b>

## Sessions in Funded Provider Nurseries and Childminders

Funded provider nurseries and childminders will offer the same funded entitlement and sessions as local authority nurseries.

These will be spread over 45.6 weeks or 37.6 weeks. However, their daily open and closed times and full operating weeks per year may be different. This means if a childminder or nursery is open 50 or more weeks a year, 45.6 weeks will be funded and the rest should you chose to use it, will be unfunded. If they are open more than 10 hours a day i.e. from 7 am to 7 pm, only 10 hours will be funded (8 am – 6 pm) the remainder, should you choose to use it, will be unfunded.

A list of all funded provider nurseries and childminders is available on the [Stirling Council website](#). Further information is available from individual nurseries and childminders.

## 7 Can my child access their funded hours with different providers?

Yes they can. From 2020, the Scottish Government will be introducing a policy called “funding follows the child”. This means parents will have greater choice and flexibility to decide how they use their funded ELC hours. You will be able to choose which providers you use and how many funded hours you use with each of them.

Prior to August 2020, Stirling Council is phasing in 1140 by learning community. This means you can already spread your funded hours across more than one provider. The providers must all be local authority nurseries or an approved funded provider. This is called a split placement.

**For example you might choose:**

- One day with a childminder (10 hours).
- One and a half days with a local authority nursery (15 hours).

If you decide to split your funded hours across a provider offering 1140 in phase 1 or 2 and a provider not yet offering 1140 in phase 3 the following would apply.

You will only be entitled to 600 hours with the provider in phase 3 that is not yet offering 1140 hours. You could access the balance of the hours up to 1140 with a provider in a phase 1 or 2. This would be a split placement and it would still allow your child to access their full 1140 hours.

Please note, the minimum attendance at any local authority nursery will be one full day or 2 half days.



## 8 What if my child lives in another local authority area?

Children who attend an ELC provider in the Stirling local authority area but live in another local authority area are termed “cross boundary”. As mentioned in question 7, from 2020, “funding follows the child” policy will be introduced. This will mean that you will be able to access your entitlement to ELC funding in a local authority other than the one you live in.

Presently, we have in place reciprocal arrangements with some neighbouring local authorities to allow cross boundary funding for the current ELC entitlement of 600 hours. This means children who live outwith Stirling local authority can access their current ELC entitlement of 600 hours with a Stirling local authority provider.

As part of Stirling Council’s phased roll out of 1140, cross boundary children will be able to access the full entitlement to 1140 hours earlier than 2020. From August 2019 they will be able to access 1140 hours with any Stirling local authority nursery or approved funded provider that is in phase 1 or 2 and offering 1140 hours.

If the cross boundary place is with a provider in phase 3 not yet offering 1140 hours, they will be able to access the current entitlement to 600 hours.

## 9 Will my child have to attend for the full session?

The increased entitlement to 1140 hours means that the session times are longer than those we currently offer in some local authority nurseries. Your child does not have to attend a full 10 hour or 5 hour session and you do not have to use all of your funded entitlement. It will be up to you to decide if you want to take less than 1140 hours.

You can also choose when, within the session times, you drop off and pick up your child however, we would ask that children attending a full day or a morning session are in nursery by 9.00am. This is to ensure they are able to settle in at the same time as the rest of the group. Equally, you can pick up your child before 6.00pm, however, if you are planning to pick up before 4pm, please let the nursery know. Attendance for a full day or a half day will be calculated as either a 10 hour or 5 hour block of funding even if you decide to use less than this.

## 10 When will my child be able to access their funded hours?

You can access the funded hours in the first term after your child's third birthday. For example, if your child turns three in September 2019, they would not be able to access their funded hours until January 2020.

If your child becomes eligible for a funded place in term 2 or 3, their entitlement to 1140 hours will be pro-rata to the number of remaining terms and weeks.

Even though the number of weeks and total hours will be pro-rata, your child's weekly entitlement will still be either 25 hours a week in model 1 and 2 settings and 30 hours a week in model 3 settings.

Please see the tables below for the pro-rata entitlement in each model for session 2019/2020.

	Model 1: 47.8 weeks			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	21 August 2019	3 January 2020	20 April 2020	19 August 2019
	24 December 2019	9 April 2020	14 August 2020	14 August 2020
<b>No. Days Open</b>	88	68	83	239
<b>No. Weeks Open</b>	17.6	13.6	16.6	47.8
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	25	25	25	25
<b>No. Hours</b>	440	340	415	1195
<b>No. Hours Funded</b>	440	340	360	1140
		<b>Unfunded Diff</b>		<b>55</b>

	Model 2: 45.6 weeks			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	21 August 2019	3 January 2020	20 April 2020	19 August 2019
	24 December 2019	9 April 2020	14 August 2020	14 August 2020
<b>No. Days Open</b>	88	68	72	228
<b>No. Weeks Open</b>	17.6	13.6	14.4	45.6
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	25	25	25	25
<b>No. Hours</b>	440	340	360	1140
<b>No. Hours Funded</b>	440	340	360	1140
		<b>Unfunded Diff</b>		<b>0</b>

	Model 3A: 37.6 weeks			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	21 August 2019	6 January 2020	20 April 2020	19 August 2019
	20 December 2019	3 April 2020	25 June 2020	14 August 2020
<b>No. Days Open</b>	81	61	46	188
<b>No. Weeks Open</b>	16.2	12.2	9.2	37.6
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	30	30	30	25
<b>No. Hours</b>	486	366	276	1128
<b>No. Hours Funded</b>	486	366	276	1128
		<b>Unfunded Diff</b>		<b>-12</b>

The 12 unfunded hours will be rounded up to 15 and equal 3 extra 5 hour sessions per year and should be taken 1 each term in agreement with the nursery.

	<b>Model 3B: 37.6 weeks</b>			
	<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>21 August 2019</b>	<b>6 January 2020</b>	<b>20 April 2020</b>	<b>19 August 2019</b>
	<b>20 December 2019</b>	<b>3 April 2020</b>	<b>25 June 2020</b>	<b>14 August 2020</b>
<b>No. Days Open</b>	81	61	46	188
<b>No. Weeks Open</b>	16.2	12.2	9.2	37.6
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	30.4	30.4	30.4	30.4
<b>No. Hours</b>	492.48	370.88	279.68	1143.04
<b>No. Hours Funded</b>	492.48	370.88	279.68	1143.04
			<b>Unfunded Diff</b>	<b>3.04</b>

## 11 Can my child attend more than just the funded sessions?

Yes, subject to availability of places as we need to prioritise children accessing their funded hours first. After this, if you wish to purchase additional unfunded sessions, you will be able to do this. Charges for unfunded sessions in local authority settings are detailed in appendix 1. These charges apply from term 1 as of August 2019.

You would also need to agree to our contract terms for funded and unfunded sessions. The nursery can advise you further on this. Fees for unfunded sessions in a provider nursery or with a childminder provider will vary and you should contact the provider directly for information.

## 12 What about meals and snacks?

In local authority nurseries meals and snacks will be provided as follows.

### Lunch

Lunch will be offered to children attending a full day session or a morning session. If your child is entitled to a free meal this will be provided at no cost, otherwise you may bring a pack lunch or purchase a meal from the nursery. The cost of a lunch for session 2019/20 is £2.20. The nursery can advise you about the menu choices and process for paying for lunches.

From August 2020, all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds will be entitled to a free lunch, if they are in nursery for more than 4 hours. If your child is attending a funded session, this will be offered at no cost in all local authority and funded provider nurseries and childminders. However, you may still choose to provide a packed lunch if you prefer.

## Snacks

In addition to lunch, all local authority nurseries will provide a morning snack and an afternoon snack. There will be no cost for this during a funded session. If you purchase additional unfunded sessions, the provision of snacks will be included in the session cost but you would still need to bring a packed lunch or purchase a lunch.

## Meals in Funded Provider Settings

Provider nurseries and childminders will offer lunch and snacks during funded sessions. However, their costs for lunch and snacks during unfunded sessions may be different. You should contact them directly for further information.



## 13 What days or weeks will the nurseries be open and closed?

Settings open 47.8 weeks a year will be closed for 21 days a year, or 4.2 weeks a year. The closed periods are shown in the table below.

<b>Closed Days Model 1: 47.8 Week</b>	
In-service (2 days)	Monday 19 August 2019 – Tuesday 20 August 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Wednesday 21 August 2019</b>
In-service (2 days)	Thursday 28 November 2019 – Friday 29 November 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 2 December 2019</b>
Christmas/New Year (7 days)	Wednesday 25 December 2019 – Thursday 2 January 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Friday 3 January 2020</b>
In-service (2 days)	Monday 17 February 2020 – Tuesday 18 February 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Wednesday 19 February 2020</b>
Local Holiday	Friday 10 April 2020 (Good Friday)
Local Holiday	Monday 13 April 2020 (Easter Monday)
Nursery closed (4 days)	Tuesday 14 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 20 April 2020</b>
In-service (1 day)	Friday 1 May 2020
Local Holiday	Friday 8 May 2020

Settings open 45.6 weeks a year will be closed for 32 days a year, or 6.4 weeks a year. The closed periods are shown in the table below.

<b>Closed Days Model 2: 45.6 Week</b>	
In-service (2 days)	Monday 19 August 2019 – Tuesday 20 August 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Wednesday 21 August 2019</b>
In-service (2 days)	Thursday 28 November 2019 – Friday 29 November 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 2 December 2019</b>
Christmas/New Year (7 days)	Wednesday 25 December 2019 – Thursday 2 January 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Friday 3 January 2020</b>
In-service (2 days)	Monday 17 February 2020 – Tuesday 18 February 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Wednesday 19 February 2020</b>
Local Holiday	Friday 10 April 2020 (Good Friday)
Local Holiday	Monday 13 April 2020 (Easter Monday)
Nursery closed (4 days)	Tuesday 14 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 20 April 2020</b>
In-service (1 day)	Friday 1 May 2020
Local Holiday	Friday 8 May 2020
Summer Week 1 (5 days)	Settings will differ. Please contact the nursery direct for closed days.
Summer Week 2 (5 days)	Settings will differ. Please contact the nursery direct for closed days.
Summer Day 1 (1 day)	Settings will differ. Please contact the nursery direct for closed days.

Local authority nurseries in model 2 (45.6 weeks) will not be closed for same 11 days (2 weeks and 1 day) over the summer. The closure weeks will vary by nursery to allow children greater access to summer holiday provision at a different nursery. Please note this will be subject to available space. Each nursery setting will be able to provide you with details of the weeks and days they will be open and closed over the summer.

Settings open 37.6 weeks a year will be closed out with term time. The closed periods are shown in the table below.

<b>Closed Days Model 3: 37.6 Week</b>	
In-service (2 days)	Monday 19 August 2019 – Tuesday 20 August 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Wednesday 21 August 2019</b>
October Holiday	Monday 14 October 2019 – Friday 18 October 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 21 October 2019</b>
In-service (2 days)	Thursday 28 November 2019 – Friday 29 November 2019
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 2 December 2019</b>
Christmas/New Year	Monday 23 December 2019 – Friday 3 January 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 6 January 2020</b>
In-service (2 days)	Monday 17 February 2020 – Tuesday 18 February 2020
Local Holiday	Wednesday 19 February 2020 – Friday 21 February 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 24 February 2020</b>
Easter Holiday	Monday 6 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Monday 20 April 2020</b>
In-service (1 day)	Friday 1 May 2020
Local Holiday	Friday 8 May 2020
Summer Holiday	Friday 26 June 2020 – Friday 14 August 2020
In Service (2 days)	Monday 17 August 2020 – Tuesday 18 August 2020
<b>Pupils return</b>	<b>Wednesday 19 August 2020</b>

## 14 Is my two year old eligible for a funded place?

Your two year old may be eligible for a funded place if you meet certain criteria.

### Do I qualify?

- Two year old children of all Universal Credit (UC) claimants are eligible for funded ELC provision. For the 2019-20 academic year, Scottish Ministers have set the UC income threshold for ELC eligibility at £610 per calendar month (based on the equivalent £7320 per year). This will mean that a two year old will qualify for an ELC place where their parent(s) are claiming Universal Credit and the household earned income is £610 or less per month.
- Your two year old may be eligible to 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.
- Your child may also be eligible if they are, have been or maybe subject to:
  - Kinship Care Order
  - Special Guardianship Order
  - Looked After

If you are unsure of which benefit you are in receipt of, please contact your local Job Centre Plus for advice.

If your two year old meets the criteria for a funded place then they will be entitled to the same number of hours as a three or four year old.

You can access funded hours with some of our local authority nurseries or with any of our funded provider childminders. You can get up to 1140 funded hours from August 2018 with a childminder in phase 1 and from August 2019 childminders in phase 2.

If you need any further information about a funded place for your two year old, please contact the nursery or the Scottish Childminding Association or a childminder directly.

## 15 Can I get a nursery place if my child is under three?

You can get a nursery place for a child under three in many local authority nurseries and with funded provider nurseries and childminders.

There is no funding for children under three, unless they meet the eligibility criteria for two year olds as explained in section 14. The cost of a nursery place in local authority nurseries for a child under three is detailed in appendix 1. Provider nurseries and childminders will have their own fees structure and you can contact them for details.

The session times, meal provision and operating hours and weeks will be the same for all children in the individual nursery. However, daily routines and specific care needs will vary for children under three and particularly for babies. The nursery/provider can give you more information about this. Enrolment will depend on availability of places and is subject to agreement of payment terms and conditions.

## 16 What about settling in and transition?

### Settling in: Funded Sessions

Your funded hours will start from the first day of the term your child becomes eligible. In order to help your child settle in and manage the transition from home to nursery, there will be a staggered intake over a few weeks at the start of each term. There is no charge for settling in sessions on a funded or part funded place.

### Settling in: 0-3 Year Olds Attending Unfunded Sessions

For children aged 0-3 years who are not entitled to a funded place, settling in will be agreed with the nursery based on the child's individual needs. All children take different times to settle and consideration will be given to supporting this. The first 5 sessions of settling in is free and any additional settling in sessions, up to 10 in total will only be charged on the basis of what is used, i.e. per hour rather than per session. A session is one 5 hour block.

Our early years staff are very experienced and skilled in helping children settle. However, during the settling in period it is a requirement that you, or another nominated adult, aged 16 years or over, is available to collect your child earlier than the agreed settling in time on the rare occasion this may be necessary.

## Transition

The majority of local authority nurseries will be open longer days and weeks therefore minimising the number of transitions for children from one provider to another. However, if your child is accessing early learning with more than one provider, for example, attending some sessions with a local authority nursery and some with a funded provider or childminder, then both providers will give you a copy of their transition policy. This will describe how they will work together to ensure effective communication with you around your child and how they will jointly plan to ensure they best meet the needs of your child.

## 17 How do I apply for a childcare place?

To apply for a childcare place you should contact the local authority nursery/funded provider of your choice and request an application form. When you have completed the application form, return it to the nursery/funded provider. Details on how local authority places are allocated is contained in our Nursery Admissions Policy which is available on our website.

You will receive written confirmation of a place offer once all admissions have been decided. The offer of a place in a local authority nursery is not final until a contract has been issued and our terms and conditions have been signed.

## And finally.....

It is an exciting time of transitional change in ELC. Children will have access to more funded hours than ever before. There will also be more choice of providers and flexible models of provision.

We want Stirling to be a nurturing and respectful place for all children and young people, their families and communities. We aim to build on our existing high quality and flexible ELC provision and continue to create a service that is bold, forward thinking and delivers quality ELC that is tailored to the different needs of our children, our families and our communities.

If you have any further questions and should you wish to find out more about the expansion, please use the links below or contact the nursery/provider directly.

# Useful Links

Stirling Council Early Learning and Childcare

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/early-learning-childcare/>

Early Learning and Childcare (Funded Places)

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/early-learning-childcare/what-is-my-child-entitled-to/>

Scottish Childminding Association

<https://www.childminding.org/>

# Nursery Fees 2019/2020

## Fees for Unfunded Sessions in Models 1, 2 and 3

The table below shows the fees for unfunded sessions in all local authority nursery models. These fee charges are effective from the start of the new academic term 2019. Fees are subject to an annual increase review every year in August. The next increase review will be at the start of the new academic term August 2020.

Payment for session fees should be made monthly using the ParentPay system. The setting can provide you with details for doing this.

Monthly fees are calculated based on your child's weekly attendance pattern over the year. The nursery will calculate this at the time your child starts as follows.

**Weekly attendance pattern for year/times session rate/times number of weeks/divided by 11 months.**

If your child starts part way through the year, the fees will be divided by the number of months remaining from the start month to the end of June for a 45.6 week place or to the end of July for a 47.8 week place.

Fees for unfunded hours	3 – 5 years	0 – 3 years
<b>Daily</b>	£31.00	£31.00
<b>Half day</b>	£15.50	£15.50

There are a few additional points for fees in models 1 and 3. These are detailed below.

### Model 1: 47.8 weeks

All settings in model 1 will be open 47.8 weeks a year. You will receive funding up to 45.6 weeks based on 25 funded hours a week. You can choose to contract with the nursery for 45.6 weeks or for the full 47.8 weeks.

If you contract for 47.8 weeks, the remaining 2.2 weeks (up to 55 hours) will be charged and payable monthly. Monthly payments will be calculated by the nursery based on your child's specific attendance pattern. The cost of the hours due will be divided by 11 months or pro-rata for the remainder of the contract period up to the end of June or July.

Payment should be made monthly using the ParentPay system. The setting can provide you with details for doing this. The table below provides an example based on the full 55 hours being due. The nursery will calculate the exact amount based on your child's attendance pattern.

Hourly rate	Total for 55 hours	Amount due per calendar month
£3.10	£170.00	£15.50

## Model 3: 37.6 weeks

As this is a term time model providing the funded entitlement to children, the availability of unfunded hours will be limited. You may be able to purchase adhoc additional sessions over and above your free entitlement if space is available. These should be agreed with the nursery and paid before the session start time using ParentPay. If you require regular unfunded sessions every week the nursery may be able to offer you a rolling short term contract, initially for one term only and subject to available space. There is no guarantee the contract would be extended for the following term as funded places would take priority.



## All About the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare

	Date	Lead Officers(s)
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