

FUNDING FOLLOWS THE CHILD

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL



Guidance for Parents and Carers

admission to early learning and childcare

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Early Learning and Childcare Entitlement

From August 2020 eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds will be entitled to 1140 hours early learning and childcare. This is a near doubling of the current entitlement of 600 hours, this Scottish Government policy is known as Funding Follows the Child. The aim is to provide high quality, flexible early learning and childcare, accessible and affordable for all families. Families can access early learning and childcare in local authority nurseries, private nurseries and with child-minders who are in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council. Funding Follows the Child enables you to access your child's nursery place where you choose, if there is a place available. The increased hours will be phased in by August 2020 for eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds from your child's eligible birth date in that school session.

In West Dunbartonshire we allocate nursery places for three and four year olds for two years which is what most parents and carers want before their child makes the transition to school. This gives families the opportunity to plan and make choices about early learning and childcare which fits around family life. A familiar environment helps children to feel safe and secure.



Entitlement to Early learning and Childcare for Three and Four Year olds

How will the entitlement be offered to families?

1140 hours are equivalent to 30 hours per week over a school year (38 weeks) or 22.5 hours per week over a full year (50 weeks). You can apply for a place at a local authority nursery, a private provider nursery in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council or a childminder who is in partnership with the Council.

At a local authority funded Early Learning and Childcare Centre:

You can take your child's entitlement over 38 weeks (school term time). This works out as a daily 6 hour session. Or you could take your child's entitlement over 50 weeks. This works out at a daily 4 hour 35 minute session; morning or afternoon. See details from page 12 – 16.

At a funded private provider Early Learning and Childcare Centre:

You can take your child's entitlement over 38 weeks (school term time). This works out as a daily 6 hour session. Or you could take your child's entitlement over 52 weeks. This works out at a daily 4 hour 35 minute session; morning or afternoon. At a funded private provider you can also access flexible hours to suit your family needs. For example, you may want to take your child's entitlement over two or three days. The entitlement can also be taken in ten hour daily blocks of time. As well as this you may want to purchase additional childcare hours, this can be arranged with the provider but it is not a condition to secure the 1140 hours placement.

At a Childminder:

You can take your child's entitlement using some of your child's entitlement to 1140 hours and some at a local early learning and childcare centre. This is known as a blended model service. The childminder has to be in partnership with West Dunbartonshire and have a space available for your child.

Blended/Split Placements:

Split placements with two funded providers can be arranged if a place is available.

When can three and four year olds start their entitlement?

Children aged three years of age become eligible for a government funded place at the start of the term following their third birthday. However, West Dunbartonshire early learning and childcare centres and our partner provider nurseries aim to provide a place closer to a child's third birthday – one calendar month later. For example, if your child is born on 2 September their nursery place will start one calendar month later on 3 October (the closest Monday if this falls on a Saturday or Sunday).

Ballot for places

If there are more children than places then a ballot will be arranged. If your child is

involved you will be invited to the ballot.

Entitlement to early learning and childcare for eligible two year olds

Not all 2 year olds are eligible for funding for an early learning and childcare place. Two year olds can start receiving funding early under a few different circumstances. This includes if they're under the care of the local council, a family member or other person appointed by the court or if their household is already receiving certain benefits.

You can apply for an ELC place for your two year old if you meet any of the following criteria:

- Income support (IS)
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105*
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £7,320*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit (this can be claimed if income is less than £610 per month).

Children who are 2 years old are eligible to take up their funded place from around the term after their second birthday or from the term after their parents start receive the qualifying benefit. Not all of our local authority nurseries provide a service for two year olds. All of our funded private provider nurseries in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council including Childminders offer early learning and childcare for eligible two year olds.

Services for two year olds are available at:

Braehead Early Learning and Childcare Centre	Lennox Early Learning and Childcare Centre (Faifley)
Brookland Private Nursery	Ladyton Early Learning and Childcare Centre
Carousel Private Nursery Alexandria	Lucky Little Stars Private Nursery
Carousel Private Nursery Dumbarton	Nursery Times by the River Private Nursery
Children's Hour Private Nursery	Riverside Early Learning and Childcare Centre
Clydebank Early Learning and Childcare Centre	Sunflower Private Nursery

Ferryfield Early Learning and
Childcare Centre
Great Start Private Nursery

Tots R Us Private Nursery Dumbarton

Tots R Us Private Nursery Clydebank
Childminders

Early learning and childcare for children under two years

Some nurseries provide places for children under two years. You can also purchase childcare for children under two years at all of our partner providers. Children may also be referred to us by social work or health or if they are looked after.

Services for children under two year olds are available at:

BRAEHEAD EARLY
LEARNING AND
CHILDCARE CENTRE
BROOKLAND PRIVATE
NURSERY

CAROUSEL PRIVATE
NURSERY ALEXANDRIA
CAROUSEL PRIVATE
NURSERY DUMBARTON
CHILDREN'S HOUR
PRIVATE NURSERY
CLYDEBANK EARLY
LEARNING AND
CHILDCARE CENTRE
FERRYFIELD EARLY
LEARNING AND

LENNOX EARLY LEARNING
AND CHILDCARE CENTRE
(FAIFLEY)
LUCKY LITTLE STARS
PRIVATE NURSERY

NURSERY TIMES BY THE
RIVER PRIVATE NURSERY
RIVERSIDE EARLY LEARNING
AND CHILDCARE CENTRE
SUNFLOWER PRIVATE
NURSERY

TOTS R US PRIVATE
NURSERY DUMBARTON

TOTS R US PRIVATE
NURSERY CLYDEBANK

CHILDCARE CENTRE

GREAT START PRIVATE
NURSERY

CHILDMINDERS

VILLA KINDERGARTEN

Applying for a place



There is a range of models available to ensure that all children can access their entitlement to 1140 hours of early learning and childcare. Parents and carers can apply for the ELC which suits their family best. We try to make sure that everyone gets what they choose. However there is no guarantee of this. *Funding Follows the Child* means that you can choose a nursery for your child. A place will be allocated if one is available. You can complete a form on line or call in at your local nursery to complete the form.

Please follow this link to the online application form:

[https://my.westdunbarton.gov.uk/service/Early Learning and Childcare Application and Enrolment Form](https://my.westdunbarton.gov.uk/service/Early_Learning_and_Childcare_Application_and_Enrolment_Form)

For more information on the application process you can call 01389 737007 or email:

earlylearningandchildcare@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Child’s Details, Family details and Health Information:

Please ensure the address given is the child’s permanent place of residence. You will be asked to provide proof of your child’s identity and address by taking their birth certificate and evidence of address to the nursery before your child is due to start. This is known as enrolment.

Timeline for Applications and Enrolment	
Year Round	Application for ELC places
September November February May	Panel Meetings - Allocation of places for all categories
November February May	Ballot if required
Enrolment May	As required Allocation of Cross Boundary

THE COMMUNITIES

1. DUNTOCHER, HARDGATE
AND FAIFLEY

2. CLYDEBANK

3. DALMUIR,

OLD KILPATRICK, BOWLING

4. DUMBARTON AND MILTON

5. BALLOCH, RENTON, VALE
OF LEVEN AND

ALEXANDRIA

6.GARTOCHARN

Communities and Settings

Within each community 1140 hours provision is available in each setting as detailed from Pages 11 - 16

The Communities:

West Dunbartonshire Council early learning and childcare settings are organised into 6 communities based on area and address see page 9. You are encouraged to apply to the settings within your community which offer the model you would like to choose for your child's early learning and childcare. Nursery settings don't have catchment areas; you can apply to any nursery in your community.

Please select your community by ticking the relevant box.

Within each community, each setting offers different provision, as shown on pages 11 – 14. You must choose, in order of preference which settings you would like to be considered for. You are asked to provide **THREE** choices. We will do our best to allocate one of these however, there is no guarantee of this. Additional childcare hours can be provided, if available. Additional hours are not guaranteed and are strictly subject to availability.

Choosing 1140 hours provision in a local authority setting for 2020/21

The Funding Follows the Child approach places gives parents and carers choice allowing you to access your child's funded entitlement from any setting - including local authority, private provider nurseries and childminders - who meet the National Standard, has a place available and is willing to enter into a contract with West Dunbartonshire Council.

Duntocher, Hardgate and Faifley

Setting	Core Hours 8.45 am – 2.45 pm 5 days per week during term time	Core Hours 5 am sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours 5 pm sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours Holiday cover for some children	Core Hours 7am - 6pm 5 days per week 52 weeks
Auchnacraig ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓	✓	✓		
Carleith Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Children's Hour 0-5 Year Olds					✓
Kilpatrick Early Years Service 0-5 Year Olds	✓				
Lennox ELCC 0-3 Year Olds	✓			✓	
Lucky Little Stars 0-5 Year Olds					✓
St. Mary's Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Villa Kindergarten 0-5 Year Olds					✓
Blended model with a childminder and ELCC is available on request Kilpatrick is a service for children with additional support for learning Split placement applications will be considered if a place is available					

Clydebank

Setting	Core Hours 8.45 am – 2.45 pm 5 days per week during term time	Core Hours 5pm sessions per week 50weeks excluding Christmas Holidays		Core Hours Holiday cover for some children	Core Hours 7am - 6pm 5 days per week 52 weeks
Bright Beginnings 0-5 Year Olds					✓
Clydebank ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓			✓	
Kilbowie Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓	✓		✓	
Linnvale Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
St. Eunan's Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Whitecrook ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				✓
Whitecrook Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Blended model with a childminder and ELCC is available on request Split placement applications will be considered if a place is available					

Dalmuir, Old Kilpatrick and Bowling

Setting	Core Hours 8.45 am – 2.45 pm 5 days per week during term time	Core Hours 5 am sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours 5 pm sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours Holiday cover for some children	Core Hours 7am - 6pm 5 days per week 52 weeks
Dalmuir ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Gavinburn Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Nursery Times by the River 0-5 Year Olds					✓
Our Lady of Loretto Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Sunflower Private Nursery 0-5 Year Olds					✓
Blended model with a childminder and ELCC is available on request Split placement applications will be considered if a place is available					

Dumbarton and Milton




Setting	Core Hours 8.45 am – 2.45 pm 5 days per week during term time	Core Hours 5am sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours 5pm sessions per week 50weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours Holiday cover for some children	Core Hours 7am - 6pm 5 days per week 52 weeks
Bellsmyre ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Braehead ELCC 0-5 Year Olds	✓			✓	
Brucehill ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Carousel 0-5 Year Olds					✓
Dalreoch ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Great Start 0-5 Year Olds					✓

Blended model with a childminder and ELCC is available on request
Split placement applications will be considered if a place is available

Balloch, Renton, Vale of Leven and Alexandria

Setting	Core Hours 8.45 am – 2.45 pm 5 days per week during term time	Core Hours 5am sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours 5pm sessions per week 50weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours Holiday cover for some children	Core Hours 7am - 6pm 5 days per week 52 weeks
Balloch ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Carousel 0-5 Year Olds	✓			✓	
Dalmonach ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Ferryfield ELCC 0-3 Year Olds	✓			✓	
Lennox ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				✓
Levenvale Primary School ELCC	✓				
Riverside ELCC 2-5 Year Olds	✓	✓	✓	✓	
St. Mary's Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
St. Ronan's Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds	✓				
Blended model with a childminder and ELCC is available on request Split placement applications will be considered if a place is available					

Gartocharn

Setting	Core Hours 8.30 am - 2.30 pm 5 days per week during term time	Core Hours 5 am sessions per week 50 weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours 5 pm sessions per week 50weeks excluding Christmas Holidays	Core Hours Holiday Childcare which is paid by parents	Core Hours 7am - 6pm 5 days per week 52 weeks
Gartocharn Primary School ELCC 3-5 Year Olds 0-3 Year Olds	  				
Blended model with a childminder and ELCC is available on request Split placement applications will be considered if a place is available					

Frequently asked questions

We will try to give you your choice however, there is no guarantee of this.

School Term Time

Question

I want my child to attend nursery during school term time; 8.45 – 2.45 to fit with my other children's school attendance pattern.

Answer

There are a number of options for this in each community.

All Year

Question

I want my child to be able to access their early learning and childcare 50 weeks a year.

Answer

There are a number of options for this in each community. The places are morning or afternoon.

Family Work Commitments

Question

I want my child to have full days as this will fit with my work pattern.

Answer

Choose a funded partner provider. There are a number of options for this in each community.

Childminders

Question

Can I choose a childminder and a nursery?

Answer

We work with childminders who are partnership with the Council. They can provide a blended model with any nursery; they will be more than happy to discuss your needs with you.

Private Nurseries

Question

Can I choose a private nursery?

Answer

Yes if they are in Partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council.

Blended Model (sometimes known as a split placement)

Question

I want my child to access their early learning and childcare in more than one setting ?

Answer

Yes, this will allow you to split your allocation, for example 15 hours at two funded providers. This is subject to a place being available and partnership arrangement being in place with the local authority

How are places allocated?

A set of criteria is used by the Community Admissions' Panels to make sure that early learning and childcare places are allocated fairly. All places will be allocated using the priority criteria.

Priority Criteria

Priority 1

Child Protection, Prevention, Looked After and Additional Support Needs

Priority 2

Any child born January to February, whose parents have exercised the right to defer entry to primary school

Priority 3

Pre-school children within their allocated community as indicated by address

Priority 4

Ante pre-school children within their allocated community as indicated by address

Priority 5

Admission will be given to children resident out with West Dunbartonshire whose parents make a request for this

Priorities 1 - 3 will be allocated first. Ballots for places

A ballot may be necessary if the number of applications received is greater than the number of places available. Likewise, a ballot will be held for any available places for ante pre-school children living in the nursery community.

What happens next?

Your application will be assessed against the priority criteria. Every effort will be made to meet your preference. However, this will be dependent on places available and the priority given to applications. An Admission's Panel will make the decision based on the admissions criteria.

If you are offered a place, you will be notified in writing and asked to confirm your acceptance of a place. You will then be invited to attend the allocated nursery with the following documentation:

- **Proof of your child's age (birth certificate/ passport), and;**
- **Proof of your current address (council tax, rental/mortgage agreement).**





