

Me2



ABERDEEN CITY

All local authorities in Scotland now offer 'Early Learning and Childcare' provision for 2 year olds who are 'Looked After', subject to a 'Kinship Care Order' or 'Parent Appointed Guardianship' or whose families are in receipt of certain benefits.

These children are entitled to up to 600 hours of free 'Early Learning and Childcare' from the term after their 2nd birthday until the term after their 3rd birthday when they are entitled to universal Early Learning and Childcare for 3-5 year olds. In Aberdeen City the service is managed by Aberdeen City Council and is called 'Me2'.

A variety of places are offered in partnership with other registered providers and all are offered within a range of family friendly group settings. Early Learning & Childcare Practitioners work closely with children's parents and carers to offer quality, nurturing childcare, play and learning opportunities that are specifically adapted to this age range.

Secured provision includes Children's and Family Resource Centres, Registered Childminders, Third Sector Organisations, Community Projects and Private Day Care Providers and enables us to offer choices to families in respect of location, style and hours of provision.

Children will be entitled to a place, if their family is in receipt of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers 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 or Working Tax Credit & your income is under £6,420
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

Or if the child (in terms of legal status):

- Is 'Looked After'
- Is under a 'Kinship Care Order' or
- Has a 'Parent Appointed Guardian'



Where can children attend the Service?

The Aberdeen City Council provisions are at:

Ashgrove Children's Centre

Gillespie Place, Aberdeen AB25 3BE

Deeside Family Resource Centre

Girdleness Road, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 8TD

Tillydrone Family Resource Centre

Pennan Road, Tillydrone, Aberdeen AB24 2UD
and

Williamson Family Resource Centre

Mastrick Close, Mastrick, Aberdeen AB16 6XZ

These settings offer either 4 morning or 4 afternoon sessions, Monday to Thursday each week for 50 weeks of the year.

Alternatively, secured places can be accessed across the city, at a growing number of settings, taking advantage of varied styles of provision, hours and accessibility. Parents and Carers also have the alternative option to stay with their child and be fully engaged in their learning at one of the 'Stay & Play' 'Me2' venues.

Feel free to contact us directly for up to date information if you want to know more about any of these choices.

All provision is registered with and monitored by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland. Each setting offers services that meet the 'National Care Standards' and works within the 'Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families' and 'Building the Ambition' national guidelines.

Children will have access to a range of play opportunities both indoors and outside which support their development and progress, enabling them to build confidence, independence and positive relationships. They will be supported to make choices, experiment, explore and problem solve as well as develop risk management and social skills. Most importantly they will be encouraged to enjoy play, have fun and develop a lifelong love of learning.

The service understands the huge benefits of working in partnership with parents and carers and how crucial their involvement is to their children's learning journey. Early Learning & Childcare Practitioners will work with parents and carers in order to plan and facilitate the best opportunities and experiences for their children.

Parents and carers are invited to attend various sessions and to share their views and ideas on a regular basis but they are also invited to join in the programme of individual and group work opportunities offered at each of the Aberdeen City Council settings.



Applying for a place

To apply for a place, parents or carers should complete the application form.

A Job Centre Plus Advisor or Social Worker will need to confirm that the child is entitled to access the service.

If there is an upcoming appointment, the Job Centre Plus Advisor can sign the appropriate space at the bottom of the application form to verify benefit entitlement or the Social Worker can do the same to verify 'Looked After' status etc. This can significantly speed up the application process.

Alternatively applications can be returned directly to the Early Years Team who will verify the application on behalf of the parent or carer.

ALL application forms must be returned to: Ashgrove Children's Centre, Gillespie Place, Aberdeen AB25 3BE.

They can also be contacted on
Tel: **01224 482293**

Once an application is verified a member of the team will get in touch with the parent or carer to discuss potential placements that suit their needs. When there is a place available they will then be invited to visit the setting along with their child, to meet the team and arrange a start date. Once a place has been allocated and accepted the place is secure, even if family circumstances change.

Costs

There is no charge for the service. Additional hours may be negotiated at partner provider settings at additional cost to the Parent or Carer.

For general information about the Service or for application forms please contact the Family Information Service on **03000 200 293 (option 6)** or email **fis@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

You can also contact Ashgrove Children's Centre on **01224 482293** or email **ashgrovechildrenscentre@aberdeencity.gov.uk** for more specific enquiries.

