



ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL

**Information for  
Nursery Parents  
2019 – 2020**

There are currently over 3250 free, part time Early Learning and Childcare places in the City for 3 and 4 year old children.

A child may start local authority nursery in the school term after his/her third birthday.

The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, defines the three school terms as follows:

Term 1 August to December  
Term 2 January to March  
Term 3 April to July

Children are entitled to an Early Learning and Childcare (EL&C) place in their ante pre-school year for the following number of terms if their birthday falls within the following dates.

1 Mar 2016 to 31 Aug 2016	Entitlement to three terms
1 Sep 2016 to 31 Dec 2016	Entitlement to two terms
1 Jan 2017 to 28 Feb 2017	Entitlement to one term

A Local Authority Early Learning and Childcare place is 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions per week, with each session being 3 hours and 10 minutes.

The Early Learning and Childcare place is free of charge but there is a small charge for snack.

You can apply for any nursery school in the city but you will be prioritised by the catchment area that you live in and by your child's age.

## **Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare**

The Scottish Government is committed to expanding the provision of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) for eligible 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 years olds. This expansion will increase the entitlement from 600 hours each year to 1140 hours by 2020. The expansion prioritises a high quality experience for each child, recognising the significant contribution that universally accessible ELC can make to a child's development.

Aberdeen City Council is working together with parents, communities and early years staff to develop our plans to transform our Early Learning and Childcare provision by 2020. From school session 2018-19, we will begin to test different approaches to ensure we can provide high quality learning, teaching, care and nurture, to all children and families in Aberdeen.

To find out more about our plans and the different approaches being tested, please visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/fis](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/fis) or follow us on Twitter @AbdnELC

## **How to apply for an Early Learning and Childcare place**

Application forms are available in all primary schools from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 until 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Late applications will be accepted throughout the school session but if your application is late then you will reduce your chances of being offered a place.

Simply go along to your local nursery with proof of date of birth for your child, proof of address and complete an application form.

If you have a childminder / carer in the area that you would like your child to attend nursery, please also complete a "Childcare Form" in addition to the application form.

You can put up to 5 choices of nursery on the form: Please note you must only complete one form and you cannot apply for more than 5 schools.

Schools will collect application forms and pass them to the Early Years Team who will then allocate spaces.

You will be sent a letter during April 2019 advising if your child has been allocated a space, or if he/she is on a waiting list.

The details of nursery applications will be kept from January 2019 until July 2020.

Once places have been allocated, all other applications will be kept on a waiting list. This list will be maintained by the Early Years Team until the end of June 2020.

## **Places are allocated according to the following criteria**

### **Band 1: All applications for children continuing in the same nursery**

- In zone pre-school year continuers (i.e. deferred entry to Primary One);
- Out of zone pre-school year continuers (i.e. deferred entry to Primary One);
- In zone ante pre-school continuers; and
- Out of zone ante pre-school continuers.

### **Band 2: All children assessed as ‘in need’ defined in the Children Scotland Act 1995**

The “Professional Support for Application to Nursery” form must be completed to determine whether a child meets the criteria.

### **Band 3: All applications for children who are currently attending a “Me 2” place defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**

### **Band 4: All applications for children in primary school zone, oldest first**

### **Band 5: All applications for children who have a sibling in the school parents are applying for, in accordance with section 23(3A) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980**

The sibling criteria will only come into effect when children have a sibling in nursery or primary 1-6 at the time of application. Siblings from split families, although not residing in the same address, can apply under this criteria.

### **Band 6: All other applications from children resident in the City**

- Children who have childcare in zone according to Appendix 3
- Out of primary zone but in secondary/ASG zone oldest first; and
- Out of secondary/ASG zone oldest first.

### **Band 7: Children who are resident outside the city**

For children resident outside the city boundary, not including children with a sibling (as they will come under band 5), the address of a childminder or carer within the city does **not** entitle the child to a nursery place. Places will be allocated oldest first.

**PLEASE BE AWARE:** Even though you may be offered a nursery space based on a sibling being at the same school, this **DOES NOT** guarantee your child a space for primary 1. A school placing request for out of zone children will still be required and no priority will be given for those who have attended nursery.

You can read the full Nursery Admissions Policy at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)