Early Years Funding Entitlement

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Scotland - March 2026

Wildflower
Day nurseries & pre-schools

30 hour and 15 hour funding

Our funded early learning and childcare (ELC) places are delivered in line with Scottish Government guidance.
We offer funding on a stretched model of 22.35 hours per week across the year. Funded hours are typically allocated as term-time only (equivalent to 30 or 15 hours), although this model is not routinely offered within our Scottish nurseries.
Funding is available for children aged 3 years and over. Some 2-year-olds may also be eligible, depending on family circumstances, including households receiving certain benefits or on lower incomes.

What is Early Years Funded Entitlement?

Most parents and carers are entitled to up to 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare per year, starting from the term after their child turns 3 years old.
This funding is typically delivered on a term-time basis. At our Scottish nurseries, we offer funded places on a stretched model across 51 weeks of the year, allowing families to access their entitlement more flexibly.
When stretched across the full year, this equates to approximately 22.35 hours of funded childcare per week for children receiving the full 1140 hours.
Some 2-year-olds may also be eligible for funded hours, depending on family circumstances, including households receiving certain benefits or on lower incomes.

Eligibility

In Scotland, all children are entitled to funded early learning and childcare. When your child can start accessing their funded hours will depend on their date of birth and your local authority's enrolment process.

Application

You can apply for your funded early learning and childcare place through your local authority.
Once your place has been confirmed, please email our Fees Office know so we can apply your child's funded hours correctly. Please include your child's name, nursery name and date of birth in your email.

Reconfirmation

In Scotland, there is no requirement to reconfirm your eligibility. Once your funded place has been confirmed by your local authority, your child's funding will continue as expected.

Tax Free Childcare

Tax Free Childcare can be used alongside Funded Childcare.
When you apply for your Funded Childcare, you can apply for Tax Free Childcare at the same time via GOV.UK.
Once your Tax Free Childcare account is set up, you can add money to the account, and the government will add 20% extra. For example, if you add £8, the government will add £2, totalling £10 to spend.
You can use this calculator to calculate how much you need to put into your account, based on your invoice amount.

Eligibility must be reconfirmed every 3 months, at the same time as reconfirmation for Funded Childcare.

Parents/Carers can set up a monthly regular payment from the Tax Free Childcare account, or payment can be made manually via the account.

Tax Free Childcare can be used up until the age of 18, towards breakfast clubs/extra curricular activities/holiday clubs throughout school.