

# ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

## EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FUNDED PLACE APPLICATIONS 2023/2024

From August 2021, all children became eligible to receive up to a maximum of 1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare per year, or a pro rata amount, from the term after their 3rd birthday. Parents/carers can choose whether these hours are accessed in a local authority nursery or within a playgroup, private day nursery or childminder, which has been commissioned by the local authority.

<b>If child's third birthday falls between:</b>	<b>They will be eligible from:</b>
1st March - 21st August *	22nd August 2023
22nd August - 29th October *	30th of October 2023
30th October - 7th January *	8th of January 2024
8th January - 14th April *	15th of April 2024

**\*Your child must have had their 3rd birthday the day before the new term starts.**

**Please note the start of term dates change each year.**

**Link to term dates: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25390/25revisedjun20.pdf>**

Funded places for session 2023/2024 are available at both local authority nurseries and with playgroups, private day nurseries and childminders, which has been commissioned by the local authority.

Information and the online application form for local authority nurseries, commissioned playgroups, private day nurseries and childminders will be available from **23rd January 2023 - 3rd February 2023**. These can be obtained online from <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-and-childcare-information/>

All Early Learning and Childcare settings that provide Early Learning and Childcare funded places are regulated by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, and are quality assured by Aberdeenshire Council. Parents/carers should note there are separate approaches for applying for funded places in school nursery classes and for applying for funded places in commissioned playgroups or private day nurseries. These are as follows:

### **For entry to a local authority school.**

For children who become eligible to commence their Early Learning and Childcare funded place in the **2023/2024** session, applications should be **submitted online between 23rd January 2023 and 3rd February 2023**. A list of all provision is listed in the 'Applying Early Learning and Childcare for Your Child – Application Booklet'. Booklets are available from the website at <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-and-childcare-information/>.

Evidence of the child's date of birth (original birth certificate) and evidence of home address (for example a recent utility bill or recent bank statement) will be required, once you have received confirmation that your child has been offered a place.

### **For entry to a commissioned playgroup, private day nursery or childminder (funded providers)**

Parents/carers should first apply directly to the commissioned playgroup, private day nursery or childminder of their choice from the **23rd January 2023**.

Once a place has been secured, Parents/carers will then be asked by their funded provider, to apply online for a funded place for the confirmed number of hours. This funding will be paid direct to your chosen funded provider by Aberdeenshire Council. If the Parent/carer does not apply for a funded place, your chosen provider may ask Parent/carers to pay full price.