

Can my child have Gaelic Medium pre-school education?

If you would prefer your child to receive their funded pre-school education in a Gaelic Medium Nursery or Partner Centre, there are currently 17 Gaelic Medium Local Authority Nurseries and 6 Partner Centres.

What if I feel my child would benefit from an additional year in pre-school education

You should discuss your concerns with staff. Your child may still mature a lot during the coming month. However if, around Easter, you and the staff agree that your child would benefit from a further year in pre-school education, then this will be funded. If however, your child will be five before the start of the school term in August the you will have to contact Education Psychological Services for them to access your situation.

Contact Tel: 01463 233494

What if my child has Additional Support Needs

If your child is eligible for a funded place and has additional support needs you should discuss their needs with staff at the pre-school centre at enrolment.

How do I enroll my child for a funded place

If your child is eligible for a funded place in the school session 2006/2007 you may enroll your child at the pre-school centre of your choice by applying direct to that centre.

The week commencing 20th March 2006 is "enrolment week" at all centres. However if you miss this opportunity you will still be able to enrol your child after that date if the centre of your choice has places available. It is best, however, to enrol your child as early as possible.

Highland Council
Childcare & Early Education Service
Old School, High Street, Clachnaharry, Inverness, IV3 8RB
Phone: 01463 711176 Fax: 01463 714764
Email: childcareinformationservice@highland.gov.uk



Early Education for 3 & 4 Year Olds

2006 - 2007



Early Education is a crucial part of a child's development and helps children to learn as they play. A good quality pre-school experience builds on the valuable learning that takes place in and around the home and develops the learning and other essential skills which children will rely on in later life. Access to education combined with childcare is crucial to many parents and carers to enable them to balance work and family life.

The government wishes to ensure that all three and four year olds have free pre-school education provision and that good quality, affordable childcare is available locally for parents that require it.

Who can have free places?

Children entitled to a fully funded pre-school education place must be born within the eligible birth dates for the school session starting in August 2006, these are:-

The Pre-school Year ("Four Year Olds")

Those born on or between **1 March 2002—28 February 2003** are eligible for a funded place from **August 2006**

The Year before the Pre-school Year ("Three Year Olds")

Those born on or between

1 March 2003—31 August 2003

Will be eligible for a funded place from **August 2006**

1 September 2003—31 December 2003

Will be eligible for a funded place from **January 2007**

1 January 2004—29 February 2004

Will be eligible for a funded place from **April 2007**

How much is paid for?

If your child is eligible for a funded place this means that they can have up to 12 1/2 hours per week (5 sessions of 2 1/2 hours) for 38 weeks of the school year. The funding is paid direct to the nursery or playgroup for a number of sessions your child is registered. There is no direct payment to parent(s).



Where are the Funded Places in August 2006?

- The majority of funded places for "4 year olds" are in local authority nurseries whereas most of the places for "3 year olds" are available through voluntary or private partner providers which are commissioned by Highland Council to provide pre-school education. There are currently 158 local authority nurseries and 100 partner centres. All centres offering funded places work to the same curriculum and are subject to the Highland Council Quality Assurance process and the Scottish Executive national inspection arrangements.
- To find out where the funded places will be in August there are various places you can contact. Your local school, playgroup or nursery, the Council Service Point, the Area Education Office and the Highland Council Childcare Information Service:



Telephone: 0845 6011345

Email: childcareinformationservice@highland.gov.uk

Website: www.childcarelink.gov.uk/highland

- For "4 year olds" priority will be given to children living within the catchment area of the school. However where a parent has domestic or work arrangements which give reasonable grounds for granting a place in another nursery, enrolment can be accepted if places are available.
- For "3 year olds" you are free to choose any pre-school centre of your choice that has places available. Some centres may be only able to offer 2 or 3 sessions per week. If you feel that your child would benefit from having the full 5 sessions per week then this should be discussed with the centre or you may wish to consider registering your child with another centre, you may split your sessions between 2 centres, as long as you do not exceed the full 12 1/2 hours per week pre-school funding.
- At some partner centres children can attend before they become eligible for funding but you would be expected to pay fees for the period up until they were eligible for a funded place. In local authority nurseries children can only attend once they are eligible for funding.