

## Further Information

For further information please contact:



Highland Childcare Information Service

Phone: 0845 6011345

Fax: 01463 714764

Email: [childcareinformationservice@highland.gov.uk](mailto:childcareinformationservice@highland.gov.uk)

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## Early Education for 3 & 4 Year Olds

**2007-2008**

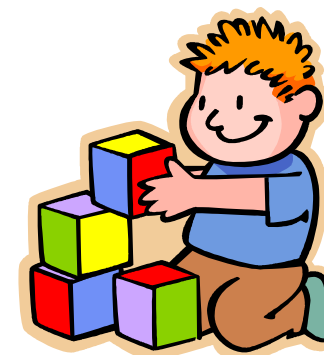


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## Where are the Funded Places in August 2007?

- Funded places are available in local authority nurseries, voluntary partner providers or private partner providers which are commissioned by Highland Council to provide pre-school education. There are currently 159 local authority nurseries, 19 commissioned private partners and 73 commissioned voluntary partners. 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 your local pre-school provision will be in August there are various places you can contact - your local primary school, the Council Service Point, the Area Education Office or the Highland Council Childcare Information Service.
- Priority will be given to children living within the school catchment area. However where a parent has domestic or work arrangements which give reasonable grounds for granting a place in another centre, enrolment can be accepted if places are available.
- All children are able to split their sessions between 2 centres, as long as you do not exceed the full 12 1/2 hours per week pre-school funding.
- At some voluntary or private 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 become eligible for a funded place. In sessional local authority nurseries children can only attend once they are eligible for funding.

## 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 2007. These are laid down by the Scottish Executive and are as follows:-

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

Those born on or between **1 March 2003—29 February 2004** are eligible for a funded place from **August 2007**

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

Those born on or between **1 March 2004—31 August 2004** will be eligible for a funded place from **August 2007**

Those born on or between **1 September 2004—31 December 2004** will be eligible for a funded place from **January 2008**

Those born on or between **1 January 2005—28 February 2005** will be eligible for a funded place from **April 2008**



## How do I enrol my child for a funded place in 2007-2008?

If your child is eligible for a funded place in the school session 2007/2008 you may enrol your child at the pre-school centre of your choice by applying directly to that centre. You will need to take your child's birth certificate or passport with you.

**Week beginning 19th March 2007 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 in enrolment week.



## 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 directly to the pre-school centre for your child's registered number of sessions. There is no direct payment to parents.

## Gaelic Pre-school Education

If you would like your child to receive their pre-school education through the medium of Gaelic, currently we have 18 Gaelic Medium Nurseries and 6 Gaelic Voluntary Partner Centres in Highland.

## Deferred Entry to Primary 1

In certain circumstances a child may defer their entry into Primary 1. This should be discussed with staff during the pre-school year. If entry to Primary 1 is deferred, a further pre-school year **may** be provided.

## 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.