

To enrol for a place in a School, partner provider or childminder ELC setting – you should apply online through the Highland Council website (www.highland.gov.uk/enrol). It will not be possible to enrol directly due to Covid-19 restrictions.

You can find ELC partners on our interactive map on The Highland Council website: (www.highland.gov.uk/enrol)

What does ‘funding follows the child’ mean?

Even if you change provider at any point in the year the funding will go to the new local authority, partner nursery or childminder. You don’t need to do anything other than register with any new partner provider and deregister with the previous provider. We need a month’s notice of your change of provider.

When do I know if we have a place?



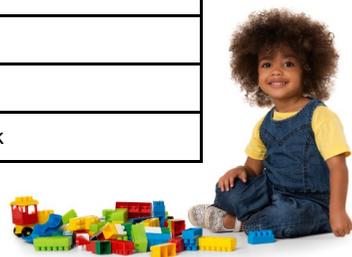
This can be an anxious time and decisions will be made as quickly as possible.

My child has additional needs, what do I do?

If you feel your child may need additional help in your chosen setting, talk to the setting and to your health visitor

about what support your child might need.

AREA	Email
North	ELC-north@highland.gov.uk
Mid	ELC-mid@highland.gov.uk
West	ELC-west@highland.gov.uk
South	ELC-south@highland.gov.uk



What is ELC all about and is it for us?



ELC stands for Early Learning and Childcare and includes providers like nurseries, playgroups and childminders. In those early years ELC can make a huge difference to families with young children. In an Early Learning and Childcare setting children can learn together through playing and having fun. It is a great way to learn skills for the future. However, Early learning and childcare is not statutory, and it is for you to decide whether you want your child to participate.

From August 2021 all 3 and 4-year olds, and eligible two-year olds, will receive 1140 hours of funded ELC per year.

Here are a couple of websites that might be of interest to you as you look into ELC provision for your child:

Parent Club:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/how-etc-gives-your-kids-extra-tlc>

Bumps2Bairns:

<https://bumps2bairns.com/toddlers/childcare-and-nursery-2/>



Can my child have a place?

All children are eligible to an ELC place from when they 3 years old until they start school, with start dates as follows:

Birth Date	Eligibility
16 August 2017– 28 February 2018	16 August 2022(deferred entry)
1 March 2018—28 February 2019	16 August 2022(4 Year Olds)
1 March 2019– 31 August 2019	16 August 2022
1 September 2019– 31 December 2019	9 January 2023
1 January 2020– 29 February 2020	17 April 2023

What about 2 year olds?

The Scottish Government offers funded places for some 2 year old children: If you have a 2 year old child and receive certain benefits you could be entitled to free childcare. The hours become available as soon as you, the parent, start receiving one of the following benefits:

- Two year olds are eligible for free ELC if their parent or carer receives one of the following
 - Income Support
 - Job Seekers Allowance (Income based)
 - Employment Support
 - Allowance (income based)
 - Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance



- State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit but **not** Working Tax Credits **and** income is under £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit **and** maximum Working Tax Credit **and** your income is under £7,320 or the Working Tax Credit 4 week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

In addition, children aged two or over who are (or have been at any point since turning two) looked after by a local Council, the subject of a kinship care or guardianship order are eligible for a funded place.

How do I choose an ELC setting or Childminder?

In parts of Highland you may have a choice of different types of settings: Highland Council settings, commissioned partner providers and childminders. The main thing is that you feel comfortable with the setting you choose and that your child will be happy there.

Parents are able to choose one or a mix of service provision to suit your needs:

- Nurseries: Can be private partner providers or run by Highland Council
- Outdoor Nurseries: They have more focus on outdoor learning experiences where either some or all of the day's activities are delivered outdoors. Can be private partner providers or run by Highland Council
- Childminders: Usually look after children in their own home. Childminders follow the same curriculum as nurseries.

All children are entitled to a funded meal if their session is 4 or more hours. You may wish to enquire how this works in the setting/s you are interested in.

For more information of your local ELC settings, please go to The Highland Council website Enrolment page: www.highland.gov.uk/enrol

Can I split my child's entitlement over different settings?

Yes, you can split your child's entitled hours over more than one provider.

How do I enrol?

Enrolment Week for 2022-23 will take place in the week beginning 14th February 2022

