



Early Years

Early Learning and Childcare Expansion



**Funded Providers -
Early Years Centres and Childminders
Guidance Notes**

January 2021



What is the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare – and when is it happening?

The Scottish Government is increasing the funded early learning and childcare eligibility to 1140 hours per year. All eligible¹ two-year-old children and all children aged three and four years old will be able to take up the funded entitlement from August 2020.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland has provided a helpful leaflet ‘Early Learning and Childcare in a Nutshell’ (<https://www.nfps.org.uk/>) setting out all the key information parents and carers need to know about 1140 hours, the Scottish Government National Standard and the funding follows the child approach. This is also available on the East Dunbartonshire Council website.

The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that all eligible children living in East Dunbartonshire are able to access funded provision. The Council aims to ensure a choice of flexible, affordable, high quality provision. Providers in the private, voluntary, and independent sector - including childminders - work in partnership with the Council to deliver the expansion.

When - and how - do I apply for a place for my child?

Applications for the academic year 2021/22 run throughout January 2021 and close on the 28th of February 2021. Applications are completed online on the Council website. Parents and carers can speak directly to staff in their local early years centre for advice and information.

Any applications received after the closing date will be considered as a late application and will only be considered after all other applications have been processed.

Please note: at the point of online application, applicants will be required to upload proof of residency, Council Tax bill, recent utility bill and child's birth certificate.

Can I choose an early years centre or childminder in the private, voluntary or independent sector?

Yes - you are able to choose the option that best suits your family's needs and you can choose any early years centre or childminder that is working in partnership with the Council to deliver the funded hours. A list of current funded providers is available on the Council website.

Early learning and childcare providers in the private, voluntary or independent sector – including childminders - that meet the National Standard are able to apply to the local authority to deliver funded hours.

Parents and carers should check with the centre or childminder if they are in partnership with the Council parents and carers should check with the centre if they are in partnership with the Council.

Funded providers will set their own delivery model - the times of their sessions and the pattern that children can attend. Parents and carers should talk directly to the funded provider to discuss their requirements, and secure a place prior to applying to the Council for funding.

All funded providers must ensure that funded hours are free at the point of access and parents and carers are not required to purchase any additional hours beyond this funded entitlement in order to access their child's funded hours.

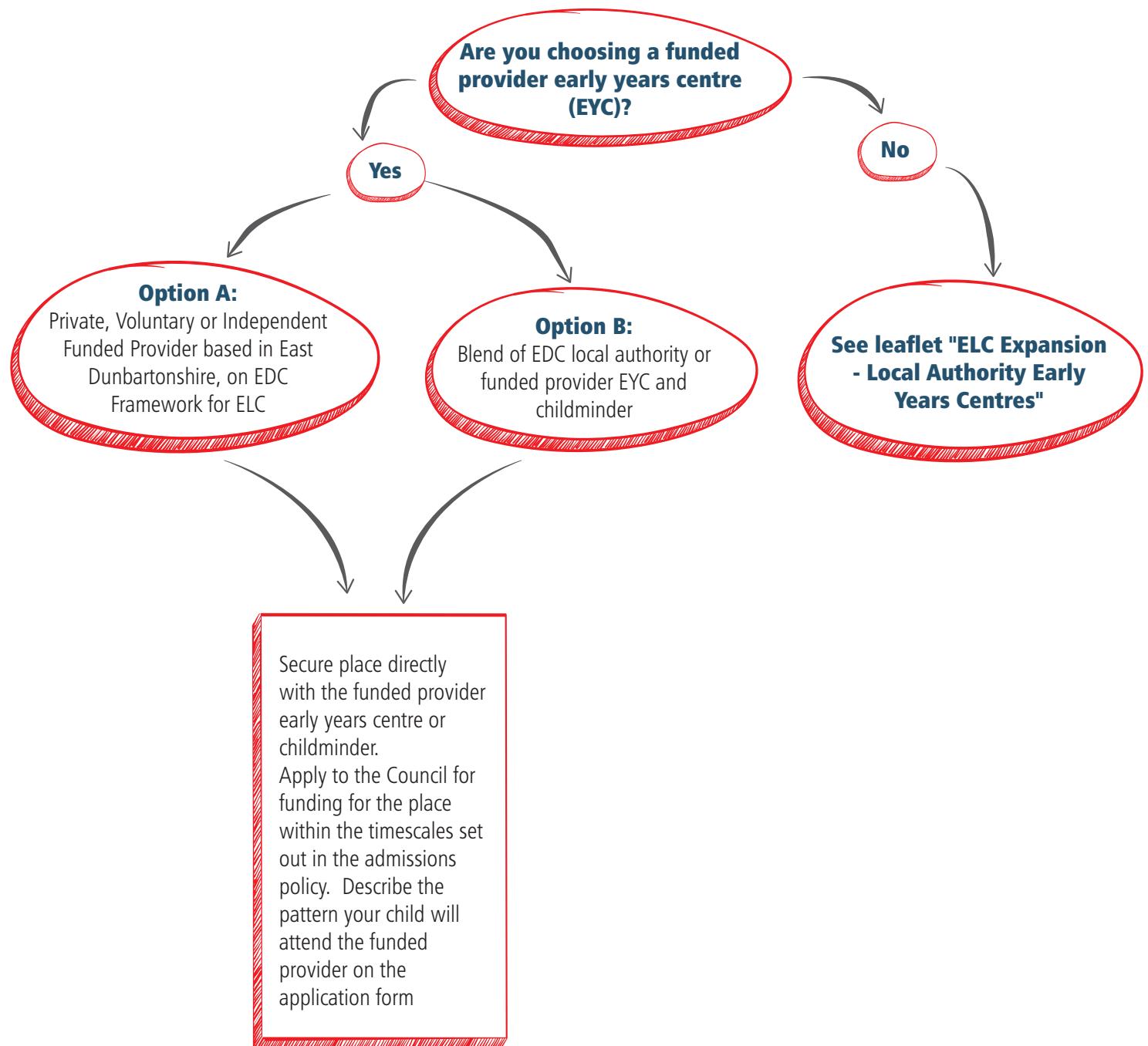
Childminders offer a unique early learning and childcare experience which can often be very flexible for parents. Childminders can offer parents a ‘blended approach’ - where children spend some time in an early years centre and some time with a childminder. Parents should secure places with childminders directly prior to applying for funding on the online application form.

If, for whatever reason during the contract term, a funded provider is no longer on the framework, parents of children placed with them will be informed and provided with advice and support on the options available. In this instance, parents can contact the funded provider directly for more information or the Early Years team on 03001234510.

¹ Eligibility criteria is detailed on the EDC website: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/early-learning-and-childcare/early-learning-and-childcare-provision#>

Early Years

Early Learning and Childcare - Funded Provider Early Years Centres and Childminders



Can my childminder or early years centre deliver the funded hours?

All childminders or early years centres within East Dunbartonshire Council can apply to be a funded provider. There are criteria that require to be met in line with the National Standard. If your chosen provider is not a funded provider, the Early Years Team can discuss other options with you.

How are places allocated at Funded Providers?

Funded providers have their own admissions and charging policies, and parents and carers should secure a place directly with the setting prior to completing the application form for funding from the Council.

What if I want something different?

Parents and carers can use their child's funded hours with local authority early years centres, funded providers and childminders, and can use a blend of more than one setting. Contact information and further details for early years centres and childminders is available on the Council website (<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/early-learning-and-childcare>) or you can speak to someone at your local early years centre who can give you more information.

Does my child need to take up the full 1140 hours?

The early learning and childcare is an offer. Parents and carers can choose to take the amount of early learning and childcare that best suits their requirements.

Will meals and snacks be provided?

The National Standard sets out that all children attending funded entitlement will receive food over the course of the day as required. Individual funded providers can provide further information on their model of delivery.

Further information

Further information is available on the Council website, including frequently asked questions (FAQs) which will be kept updated in response to questions received. For any other information, email the early years team on: earlyyears@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

The Parent Club website <https://www.parentclub.scot/>

Other formats and translation

This document can be provided in large print, Braille or in audio format and can be translated into other community languages. Please contact the Council's Communications & Engagement Team at:

East Dunbartonshire Council, 12 Strathkelvin Place, Southbank,
Kirkintilloch G66 1TJ Tel: 0300 123 4510

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

اگر دستاویز کارخانست کرنے پر (اردو) زبان میں آجھ کیا جائے گا۔ ہم اپنی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر باتیکریں۔

ایس ڈسٹریکٹ دا مینگا کرنا ڈے پسساں ویچ ڈھنواں دا سکھا ہی۔ کیرپا کرکے 0300 123 4510 ڈئن کریں।

Gabhaidh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhith oirbh. Cuiribh fòin gu 0300 123 4510

انگریزی کرنا ڈے پر یہ دستاویز ہندی میں بآپاں تریت کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ ہم 0300 123 4510 پر فون کریں۔