

FREE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PLACES FOR THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS

Plymouth City Council funds free early learning and childcare places. This leaflet explains what your child could be entitled to.

WHAT IS MY CHILD ENTITLED TO?

From April 2010, your child will be entitled to up to a maximum of 15 hours of FREE early learning and childcare per week for a minimum of 38 weeks of the year.

Your childcare provision will aim to offer a flexible solution to meet your needs (subject to availability).

WHERE CAN MY CHILD HAVE A FREE PLACE?

Your child could have a free place with any early years and childcare provider who is registered with Plymouth City Council (subject to availability).

These include:

- pre-schools
- day nurseries
- independent (private) schools
- school-run (maintained) nurseries, classes or nursery schools
- accredited childminders

WHEN CAN MY CHILD HAVE A FREE PLACE?

Children who are three years old between:	Will have a free place from the following:
1 April and 31 August	September
1 September and 31 December	January
1 January and 31 March	April

These free places can be offered until your child reaches statutory school age (the term following a child's fifth birthday).

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

Your chosen early learning and childcare provider will ask you to complete the relevant documentation to allow them to claim the funding for your child's free place. Proof of eligibility will be required. If your child attends more than one provider, the funding may be split between them up to your maximum entitlement of free hours (where places are taken up with any additional provider, this must be declared).

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information regarding free places, and for a list of providers that are registered to offer them, please call Plymouth Family Information Service on 0800 783 4259.

STARTING SCHOOL

By law, your child must be receiving full time education from the term following his or her fifth birthday. Many children start school earlier than this, although this is optional. You will not lose an allocated place should you choose to delay entry, providing the place is taken up in the same school year. You will need to discuss this with your chosen school; your child can have their free early learning and childcare place until they begin full time education.

You are advised to contact your chosen school as soon as your child is three years old. You can find information on schools in your area by visiting the Plymouth City Council website at: www.plymouth.gov.uk



PLYMOUTH FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

Plymouth Family Information Service (FIS) provides free and impartial information and advice to families with children aged 0 -19 years on:

- Childcare
- FREE early learning and childcare places
- Sport and leisure activities
- Your rights as a working parent
- Support services for families
- Support for children with additional needs and/or disabilities
- Benefits and tax credits

We also provide information for people who want to work with children, young people and their families.

Please visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/familyinformationservice for further information.

PLYMOUTH EARLY YEARS TEAM

The Early Years Team aims to support and plan the development of good quality, inclusive, sustainable childcare places in response to parental demand across Plymouth.

The aim is to offer parents greater choice, availability and flexibility in high standard, affordable childcare and early years education.

Please visit: www.plymouth.gov.uk/earlyyearsandchildcare or call 01752 307450.

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to your chosen early learning and childcare provider or the administration of funding, please do not hesitate to contact the Early Years Team.



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE
Early Years Team



This document is available in other languages and formats. Please call 0800 783 4259.

CONTACT

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Free places for three and four year olds