

Wigan Children's Information Service
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Free
Early
Years
Provision



We can make this information available in other formats and languages on request.
Contact the Media and Communications Team on 01942 827173

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Children and Young People's Services

What is Early Years Provision?

Early Years Provision combines education and care and helps children to develop strong foundations for future learning through hands-on activities and play.

Where does Early Years Provision take place?

Early Years Provision takes place in:

- School nursery classes or community pre-schools
- Private and voluntary sector day nurseries (a nursery not run by a school)
- Pre-school playgroups
- Starter groups

How do I find a place?

Contact Wigan Children's Information Service on 01942 486960 who will be able to provide you with a list of settings that offer Early Years Provision.

These settings could be near to where you live or work.

How do I enrol my child?

Once you have decided on a suitable setting, you can then contact them directly.

Who is eligible for a free place?

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to a free place. For 3 year olds this entitlement starts from the term after the child's 3rd birthday (see table of school terms below).

Month your child was born	School terms
January - March	Summer - from 1st April
April - August	Autumn - from 1st September
September - December	Spring - from 1st January

Parents / carers do not pay for this entitlement but may be charged fees for any Early Years Provision additional to the free session.



The free entitlement is available for 12 and a half hours a week for 38 weeks a year. In order to give parents choice and flexibility, the free provision can be taken over a minimum of 3 days between the hours of 9am and 4pm depending on the opening hours and sessions of the service chosen. For the most disadvantaged children, the free entitlement is rising to 15 hours a week from September 2009. You will be advised if this is available to your child when you enrol them. From September 2010 all eligible 3 and 4 year old children will be entitled to 15 hours a week.