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# Early Learning and Childcare: Strong Starts - for eligible 2-year-olds

Perth & Kinross Council has a number of places offering Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to children who are 2 years of age and meet the Scottish Government criteria.

## **Guidance for Parents**

Throughout this guidance, the word 'parent' should be interpreted as including the child's carer or legal guardian.

## Early Learning and Childcare - Strong Starts

A number of nurseries and childminders offer Early Learning and Childcare places of up to 1140 hours to children who are 2 years of age. These are known as Strong Start places and will be offered to eligible children in line with Scottish Government criteria and delivered in line with the arrangements for children aged 3 to 5 years old.

We recognise the valuable job parents and carers are doing and these additional funded hours are intended to:

- support child development where they can continue to have fun and learn outside of their home with experienced and trained staff;
- support parents into work, study or training.

### Can I apply for a Strong Start place for my 2-year-old?

Your 2-year-old may be eligible for a place from the point they are looked after, under a Kinship Care order, or with a parent appointed guardian. Parents who have received this type of care experience may also be eligible for a place for their 2-year-old. Advice is available from your allocated Social Worker.

If, as a parent you are receiving any of the following benefits, then your child may be eligible for a place:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- Any income-related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,480\*
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit (WTC) and your income is less than £7,320\*
- You may also be eligible if you are an asylum seeker receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999



- Universal Credit where the monthly earned income does not exceed £610
- Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit

\* The income thresholds for CTC and WTC can vary annually.

## Early Learning and Childcare for 2-year-olds is currently available in the following primary school nurseries:

Alyth	Letham, Perth
Balhousie, Perth	Methven
Blair Atholl	Milnathort
Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy	Murthly
Community School of Auchterarder	Newhill, Blairgowrie
Coupar Angus	North Muirton, Perth
Crieff	Oakbank, Perth
Errol	Pitlochry High School
Goodlyburn, Perth	Rattray
Inchture	St Dominic's RC, Crieff
Inch View, Perth	St John's RC Academy, Perth
Kinloch Rannoch	Stanley
Kinross	Tulloch, Perth
Kirkmichael	

Funded 2-year-old spaces are also available in a number of funded provider settings including childminders and nurseries working in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council. To find out more information regarding which settings are available in your community please contact

[ELCApplications@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ELCApplications@pkc.gov.uk)

## When can my 2-year-old begin nursery?

There are 3 entry dates across the year. Your 2-year-old will become eligible for a place in the term either following their 2nd birthday, or in the term after you begin to receive the qualifying criteria.



Eligible child's second birthday	School term
1 March - 31 August	Term 1: August - December
1 September - 31 December	Term 2: January - March
1 January - 29 February	Term 3: April - July

## How do I apply?

An online application form is available on the Perth & Kinross Council website: [Register for a local authority nursery place for school year - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/register-for-a-local-authority-nursery-place-for-school-year-perth-kinross-council)

This should be fully completed along with the following:

- evidence of the qualifying criteria/care;
- proof of your child's age (birth certificate); and
- proof of your current address, eg a recent gas/electricity bill or bank statement.

Online applications open mid-January of each year. Applications received after mid-February will be considered following the initial allocation of places.

**Note:** It may not be possible to offer your child a place in the nursery of your first choice.

Further information can be found at [Perth & Kinross Council - 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare for 2 year olds \(Strong Starts\) \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/1140-hours-of-funded-early-learning-and-childcare-for-2-year-olds-strong-starts)

or can be provided by contacting **01738 476200** or email [ELCApplications@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ELCApplications@pkc.gov.uk)



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[www.pkc.gov.uk](https://www.pkc.gov.uk) (PKC Design Team - 2021150)



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