



**Children and Young  
People's Services**

# Parents Guide to Early Years Provision in County Durham

**Accessing the Free  
Entitlement to Early  
Years Provision  
with effect from  
September 2010**







**Durham**  
County Council



You can now apply on-line: [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

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# Foreword

## Dear Parent/Carer

The Childcare Act of 2006 removed the legal distinction between childcare and nursery education for young children aged 0-5. The term 'early years provision' means the provision of a combination of early learning, care and development for a young child.

This guide is intended to provide you with the essential information you need in order for you to access the free entitlement to early years provision for your child. The current entitlement of 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year is available for all three and four year olds and can last for up to two years, until your child reaches statutory school age. Some two year olds are also entitled to access this provision.

We hope that this guide will help you to find a place which is right for your child so that he or she will have the best possible start in life and fulfil their potential.



**Councillor  
Claire Vasey,**  
Cabinet Member  
for Children and  
Young People's  
Services



**David C. Williams,**  
Corporate Director,  
Children and Young  
People's Services



# Introduction

## General Information

The County Council recognises how important it is for children to have access to pre-school experience because involvement in high quality early learning, care and development has been proven to lead to better educational and social outcomes for all children.

Parents want the best for their children and are the best judges of their family's needs. High quality early years provision is vital to the needs of families and provides parents with choices about how to balance work and family responsibilities.

We have a legal duty to manage the provision of the free entitlement, to monitor local demand, take-up and quality and to encourage and support the delivery of the free entitlement from a diverse range of providers.

## What is Free Early Years Provision?

All three and four year olds in England are entitled to free, part-time Early Learning, Care and Development. It lasts for up to two years, until children reach statutory school age. Children can currently attend on a part-time basis for 15 hours a week, for 38 weeks a year which can be taken flexibly over a minimum of three days with up to two providers. Some two year olds are also entitled to access this provision.

Free Early Years Provision places are provided in a variety of settings, including childminders, nursery schools, nursery units, children's centres, playgroups and day nurseries. Parents cannot be charged for any part of the minimum free entitlement either directly or indirectly and they can access as little or as much of this as they choose.

Some settings also provide childcare before or after the free Early Years Provision session, which parents can choose to take up and pay for.

## When does my Child Qualify for the Free Entitlement?

The details below apply to all Early Years Provision settings within County Durham.

Child Born Between	Term of Eligible Entry
1 April - 31 August	September intake
1 September - 31 December	January intake
1 January - 31 March	April intake

Please note that some maintained settings make provision from their own budgets which has enabled them to admit children earlier than the date from which they became eligible for funding from the Local Authority. These are local arrangements and as such settings will clarify admission dates to parents accordingly.

## Where can I access the Free Entitlement for my Child?

- Maintained (Durham County Council) nursery schools and nursery units.
- Children's Centres.
- Private, voluntary and independent day nurseries and play groups or childminders.

## How do I obtain an Early Years Provision Place in a Private, Voluntary or Independent Setting?

You need to contact the providers directly and they will advise you if they have current vacancies or if there is a waiting list. You can obtain an up to date list of providers by contacting the Families Information Service (FIS) on Freephone 0800 917 2 917.

## How do I obtain an Early Years Provision Place in Durham County Council maintained Nursery School or Unit?

We have maintained nursery schools and units throughout the County. These are listed at the back of this guide

In **Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools** the admission of children is a matter for the school governors. However, almost all Aided Schools follow our criteria for admission.

The majority of **Children with Special Educational Needs** can be supported at any nursery school, nursery unit or Early Years setting. Nursery provision is also available in certain Special Schools. Support for individual pupils is determined by us through Statutory Assessment procedures.

We have adopted principles in relation to the admission of children into its own Early Years Provision within Community, Voluntary Aided and Controlled nursery schools and units.

You can place your child's name on a waiting list for a Durham County Council maintained nursery school or unit at the beginning of the school year (1st September to 31 August) in which your child has his or her second birthday.

You will then need to visit the setting of your choice and you will be asked to complete and sign an application form (Form NA1). You will be handed a receipt (Form NA2), which confirms only that your details have been recorded. **It does not guarantee that your child will be given a place or that a place can be provided to meet your particular preference.**

## How are places allocated?

If a maintained nursery school or unit does not have enough places, it may not be possible to offer your child a place there. In such cases, we will advise you about vacancies at other nursery schools or units in the area. You will also be given information about other settings.

## Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery Schools and Units

**Places are allocated according to the criteria listed below:**

### ● Children In Need

The Children Act 1989 defines a child 'in need' as:

a) He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the Local Authority under Part 3 of the Act.

b) His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services.

c) He/she is disabled.

In addition, Durham County Council has determined that children of families where English is not the main language of the family will be considered under this criterion.

A maximum of two part-time nursery places are retained until the end of the Autumn half term in order to accommodate emergency referrals of children "in need" as defined in the requirements of the Children Act, 1989.

### ● Children Transferring from One Nursery Setting to Another

Once a child has begun attending a particular nursery school/unit, it is usually in the child's best interest to remain at that nursery school/unit until transfer to the next phase of their education. However, where parents move house, for example, it may be impractical to remain at the same setting.

There may also be other exceptional reasons as to why a transfer from one maintained nursery school or unit to another would be appropriate, but this would be rare and subject to the agreement of the school following guidance from the Local Authority. Where possible nursery schools/units will aim to provide for children who have already started Early Years Provision.



### ● **The Two Year Old Free Entitlement**

Where a child has been accessing the free entitlement for 2 year olds in daycare that is directly associated with a maintained nursery school or unit, for a minimum of 15 hours per week for two terms immediately prior to the child becoming eligible for free entitlement, they shall receive priority for admission to that maintained nursery school or unit in order to preserve continuity, providing that they also live within County Durham's administrative area.

### ● **Age**

The offer of a place will be prioritised according to date of birth. Normally, the earliest date your child can be accepted for Early Years Provision is at the age of 3, although some 2 year olds can access the free entitlement. Where applicants have the same date of birth, priority will be given to the earliest date of application.

### ● **Children Living in Other Authorities**

Although there are no catchment areas for places, preference will be given to children whose parents live within County Durham's administrative area. Only when all children living within the boundary of County Durham have been allocated a place, may a child living in a neighbouring area be offered a place.

When your child has been offered a place you will receive notification to advise you, signed by the head teacher (Form NA3).

### **Equality**

All entitled children (regardless of race, gender, religious belief or affiliation, intellectual or physical ability, social or cultural background) have equal access to Early Years Provision places.

## **Moving on to Statutory Education**

The offer of a place in a maintained nursery school or unit attached to an infant or primary school does not entitle a child to a place, nor entitle them to a greater priority for a place, in that school for the period of a child's statutory education.

The Autumn term before your child is due to start in reception class, you must complete a separate application form for the school you would prefer your child to go to. Forms and admission booklets are available in the Autumn Term (September to October) either from schools or the Admissions and Transport Entitlement Team based at County Hall and must be returned by the stated deadline date. The Admissions and Transport Entitlement Team can be contacted by ringing 0191 383 4490/4574.

Sample of Form NA1

Durham County Council



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

**Application for a Nursery Place in a Maintained Nursery School or Unit**

**Maintained Nursery School or Unit:**

**Child's Name:**

**Address:**

**Postcode:**

**Tel. No.**

**Email:**

**Child's Date of Birth:**

**Name of Parent/Carer:**

**Where else have you applied for your child's admission into free Early Years Provision?**

**Has your child been offered a place at any other nursery?**

**YES**

**NO**

**If yes, please give name:**

**Maintained Nursery School or Unit - 1st preference:**

**Maintained Nursery School or Unit - 2nd preference:**

**Maintained Nursery School or Unit - 3rd preference:**

*If your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or will require additional support in Nursery, please inform us as soon as possible.*

**When would you like your child to attend:**

**MON**

**TUE**

**WED**

**THUR**

**FRI**

**AM**

**AM**

**AM**

**AM**

**AM**

**PM**

**PM**

**PM**

**PM**

**PM**

**Date of Application:**

**Signed:**

**To be completed by the school**

**Date of Child's entry into Early Years Provision:**



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**  
**Receipt of Application for an Early Years Provision Place**

**Maintained Nursery School or Unit:**

**Child's Name:**

**Address:**

**Postcode:**

I confirm that I have placed your child's name on my list for possible admission to this Nursery School/Unit. You will be informed as soon as possible whether your child can be admitted in accordance with your request.

**Important:** This acknowledgement does **not guarantee** that a place will be offered for your child, or that a place can be provided to meet your particular preference. It only confirms that your details have been recorded.

**Signed:**

**Designation:**

**Date:**





**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**  
**Application of Child to Maintained Nursery School or Unit**

Dear

**NAME OF SETTING:**

**Full Name of Child:            Date of Birth:**

I refer to your application for your child to be admitted to this nursery school/unit and am pleased to inform you that in accordance with the Local Authority's admission arrangements I am able to offer your child a place with effect from:

..... (Insert Date)

Please note that if your child is the subject of a Statement of Special Educational Needs or is undergoing a Statutory Assessment, this offer is provisional, as decisions regarding placement will be made by the Local Authority through the Statutory Assessment procedures.

It is also important to note that this offer of an Early Years Provision place does not guarantee your child a place in this school for the period of his/her statutory education.

<b>Please bring your child at</b>	<b>AM/PM on</b>	<b>200</b>
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**Please let me know whether or not you will be accepting this offer by returning the form below, by no later than**

..... (Insert Date)

**Signed by Head Teacher:**

**Please detach and return this section to the Head Teacher by no later than:**

..... (Date)

**The Parent/Carer of (Name of Child):**

**I wish/do not wish\* to accept the place offered to me (\*delete as appropriate)**

**Address:**

**Signature of Parent/Carer:**

**Postcode:**

# Directory of Maintained Nursery Schools and Units

Please contact the Families Information Service on Freephone 0800 917 2 917 or email [fis@durham.gov.uk](mailto:fis@durham.gov.uk) for the most up to date list of Private, Voluntary and Independent providers.



<b>District Area</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Name of School/Unit</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Chester-le-Street	DH2 1EZ	Pelton Community Primary	0191 370 0451
Chester-le-Street	DH2 1NP	Roseberry Primary	0191 370 0182
Chester-le-Street	DH2 1QX	St Benet's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary	0191 410 5857
Chester-le-Street	DH2 2DP	Bullion Lane Primary	0191 388 2482
Chester-le-Street	DH2 3AA	Newker Primary	0191 388 7099
Chester-le-Street	DH3 4JL	Lumley Medway Infant & Nursery	0191 388 5292
Chester-le-Street	DH4 6AR	Fencehouses Woodlea Primary	0191 385 2675
Chester-le-Street	DH7 6DU	Edmondlse Primary	0191 317 0443
Chester-le-Street	DH7 6LQ	Sacriston Nursery & Infant School	0191 371 0777
Derwentside	DH7 0AG	Burnhope Primary	01207 520 243
Derwentside	DH7 0HU	Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary	01207 520 436
Derwentside	DH7 9XN	Langley Park Primary	0191 373 1398
Derwentside	DH8 0JX	Benfieldside Primary	01207 591 369
Derwentside	DH8 6AE	Consett Infant School & Nursery Unit	01207 504 464
Derwentside	DH8 6AY	Beechdale Nursery	01207 505 752
Derwentside	DH8 6LN	St Patrick's Roman Catholic School	01207 503 982
Derwentside	DH8 7ES	Delves Lane Infant	01207 502 619
Derwentside	DH8 7PN	Leadgate Infant	01207503 656`
Derwentside	DH8 8AP	The Grove Primary	01207 502 938
Derwentside	DH8 8EQ	Moorside Primary	01207 509 724
Derwentside	DH9 0QN	Beamish Primary	0191 370 0181
Derwentside	DH9 6PZ	South Stanley Infant	01207 232 445
Derwentside	DH9 6QP	Burnside Primary	01207234 020
Derwentside	DH9 7LR	Oxhill Nursery	01207 232 266
Derwentside	DH9 8LX	Catchgate Primary	01207 508 237
Derwentside	DH9 9DJ	Collierley Primary	01207 570 298
Derwentside	NE16 6PT	Burnopfield Primary	01207 270 397
Durham	DH1 1PH	Durham Gilesgate Primary	0191 384 7284
Durham	DH1 2EY	Laurel Avenue Community Primary School	0191 386 8416
Durham	DH1 2HZ	St Hild's College Church of England Aided Primary	0191 384 7451
Durham	DH1 3DQ	St Oswald's CE (Controlled) Infant	0191 386 8029
Durham	DH1 5BG	Framwellgate Moor Primary	0191 386 5400

District Area	Postcode	Name of School/Unit	Telephone
Durham	DH1 5ES	Bright Beginnings Nursery	0191 375 4429
Durham	DH1 5HW	Busy Bees Day Nursery	0191 375 0244
Durham	DH6 1AF	Pittington Primary	0191 372 0314
Durham	DH6 1LZ	Ludworth Primary	01429 820 207
Durham	DH6 4PG	Kelloe Primary	0191 378 0275
Durham	DH6 5BE	Bowburn Infant and Nursery	0191 377 0606
Durham	DH7 7EU	New Brancepeth Primary	0191 373 0736
Durham	DH7 8LL	Langley Moor Nursery	0191 378 0830
Durham	DH7 8NL	Brandon Infant	0191 378 0038
Durham	DH7 9BE	Esh Winning Primary	0191 373 4701
Easington	DH6 2JP	Shotton Primary	0191 526 2006
Easington	DH6 2TH	South Hetton Primary	0191 526 1662
Easington	DH6 3DZ	Thornley Primary	01429 820 280
Easington	DH6 3QR	Wheatley Hill Community Primary	01429 820 594
Easington	SR7 7NN	Seaham harbour Nursery	0191 581 2829
Easington	SR7 7SX	Camden Square Infant	0191 581 2829
Easington	SR7 7UX	Parkside Infant	0191 581 3373
Easington	SR7 8JU	Westlea Primary	0191 581 3658
Easington	SR7 9QR	Murton Community Primary School	0191 517 5900
Easington	SR8 1DE	Our Lady of the Rosary RCVA Primary, Peterlee	0191 586 2264
Easington	SR8 2DU	Acre Rigg Infant	0191 586 4437
Easington	SR8 2NQ	Howletch lane Primary	0191 586 2765
Easington	SR8 3BQ	Rosemary Lane Nursery	0191 527 1168
Easington	SR8 4TB	Horden Nursery	0191 586 5415
Easington	SR8 5DN	Eden Community Primary School	0191 586 4186
Easington	TS27 4NA	Blackhall Colliery Primary	0191 586 4049
Easington	TS27 4PT	Hesleden Primary	01429 836 376
Easington	TS28 5BD	Wingate Nursery	01429 8383 206
Easington	TS29 6BP	Deaf Hill Primary	01429 880 358
Sedgefield	DL16 6EX	Tudhoe Moore Nursery	01388 816 112
Sedgefield	DL16 6PP	North Park Primary	01388 815 943
Sedgefield	DL16 6RU	Oxclose Nursery	01388 814 970
Sedgefield	DL16 7DA	Middlestone Moor Primary	01388 816 351
Sedgefield	DL17 0PT	Chilton Primary	01388 720 255
Sedgefield	DL17 8AN	Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery	01740 651 363
Sedgefield	DL17 9HP	West Cornforth Primary	01740 654 315

District Area	Postcode	Name of School/Unit	Telephone
Sedgefield	DL4 1HN	Timothy Hackworth Primary	01388 772 959
Sedgefield	DL4 2EQ	St John's Church of England Aided Primary	01388 773 476
Sedgefield	DL5 5NU	Sugar Hill Primary	01325 300 334
Sedgefield	DL5 7DD	Stephenson Way Primary	01325 300 324
Sedgefield	DL5 7DE	St Joseph's Roman Catholic School	01345 300 337
Sedgefield	DL5 7HB	Horndale Infant	01325 300 228
Sedgefield	TS21 3DA	Sedgefield Hardwick Primary	01740 620 041
Sedgefield	TS21 4AD	Fishburn Primary	01740 620 162
Sedgefield	TS29 6EY	Trimdon Grange Infant and Nursery	01429 880 347
Sedgefield	TS29 6LB	Trimdon Village Community Infant	01429 880 368
Teesdale	DL12 0TG	Middleton-in-Teesdale Primary	01833 640 382
Teesdale	DL12 8TN	Montalbo Primary	01833 637 718
Teesdale	DL13 5EN	Cockfield Primary	01388 718 263
Teesdale	DL14 9QZ	Evenwood CE (Controlled) Primary	01388 832 047
Wear Valley	DL13 3ET	Wolsingham Primary	01388 527 457
Wear Valley	DL13 4AU	Blessed John Duckett RC Voluntary Aided Primary, Tow Law	01388 731 082
Wear Valley	DL14 6PX	Aclet Close Nursery	01388 603 006
Wear Valley	DL14 6QH	St Wilfrid's RC Voluntary Aided Primary	01388 603 451
Wear Valley	DL14 6QW	Woodhouse Community Primary	01388 602 885
Wear Valley	DL14 7RF	Etherley Lane Nursery	01388 604 835
Wear Valley	DL14 8NN	Coundon Primary	01388 603 588
Wear Valley	DL14 9EN	St Helen Auckland Primary	01388 604 168
Wear Valley	DL14 9UD	Oakley Cross Primary	01388 833 186
Wear Valley	DL15 0EQ	Willington Primary	01388 746 414
Wear Valley	DL15 0QH	Willington CE Primary	01388 746 482
Wear Valley	DL15 8QG	Crook Nursery	01388 763 280
Wear Valley	DL15 9DN	St Cuthbert's RCVA Primary, Crook	01388 762 889
Wear Valley	DL15 9SZ	Peases West Primary	01388 762 380

**Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.**

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**[cypscommunications@durham.gov.uk](mailto:cypscommunications@durham.gov.uk)**

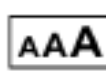
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