

Midlothian early learning and childcare

# A good time to be 2



**“My son's learning has come on leaps and bounds”**

Midlothian parent



Working in partnership with families in Midlothian to support children's early learning

A good time to be 2 is Midlothian Council's programme for free early learning and childcare places for eligible 2-year-olds. Eligible children will receive up to 600 hours of early learning and childcare in an early years setting. This works out as 15 hours 50 minutes a week if taken over the 3 school terms.

### Where is it available?

Midlothian Council has a range of partners who offer our 'A good time to be 2' early learning and childcare places. See back page for full list of providers.

### When is it available?

Early learning and childcare sessions can be offered as 5 morning or 5 afternoon session. Some settings are able to offer extended sessions over 2 or 3 days. **Please contact Pupil Placement on 0131 271 3733 or the settings listed on the back page to discuss available options.**

### How will 'A good time to be 2' place support my child?

- Your child will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of play experiences that will support their learning and development
- Staff in the settings will be available to discuss with you, your child's interests and any questions you may have about your child's development
- You will have the opportunity to share your child's learning from home and be involved in your child's learning in the setting
- Staff will support with your child's transition to nursery and share your child's learning with their new setting

### When can my child start?

Children become eligible for a place in the term following their 2nd birthday, or the first term after the parent/carer starts receiving any of the qualifying benefits listed.

**Term 1 - August:** Children born between 1st March and 31st August

**Term 2 - January:** Children born between 1st September and 31st December

**Term 3 - After Easter:** Children born between 1st January and end of February

### Is my 2 year old eligible?

Children may be eligible if they live in a household where a resident parent/carer is in receipt of one or more of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance (Income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income related)
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £16,105\* per year
- Maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is less than £6,420\* per year
- Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

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

or if your child:

- Is looked after
- Is under a kinship care order
- Lives with a parent appointed guardian

Once a child has been allocated a place they will remain entitled to this even if their parent/carer becomes employed or their situation with their parent/carer changes.

### How can I apply?

**Application forms are available on our website and from Pupil Placement on 0131 271 3733. Alternatively you can pop into any of our early years settings on the back and pick up a leaflet.** Completed application forms should be returned to Pupil Placement along with the following supporting documentation:

- Evidence of benefits you receive e.g. award letter
- Proof of child's age e.g. birth certificate or passport
- Proof of your current address e.g. council tax letter, utility bill or other letter

Please note that securing a place for your two-year-old child does not have any bearing on your child's 3-5 year old funded place. You will need to submit a separate application form for a 3-5 year old early learning and childcare nursery place.

**"It makes me and my daughter both feel more confident, the difference is unbelievable!"**

Midlothian parent



## Early learning and childcare for 2-year-olds is currently available in the following Midlothian settings:

Early Years Setting	Location	Telephone
Family Reachout, Midlothian Sure Start	Mayfield	0131 660 6644
Hand In Hand, Midlothian Sure Start	Woodburn	0131 663 4973
Positive Steps, Midlothian Sure Start	Bonnyrigg	0131 660 1749
Stepping Forward, Midlothian Sure Start	Penicuik	01968 679 215
Small Steps, Midlothian Sure Start	Gorebridge	01875 822 428
Bright Start, Midlothian Sure Start	Loanhead	0131 448 2204
Hawthorn Children & Families Centre	Mayfield	0131 271 3116
LASC Childcare Services Community Nursery	Loanhead	0131 448 0103
Newbattle Community Nursery	Newtongrange	0131 663 6055
Wizkidz Nursery	Newtongrange	0131 660 0077
Pinocchio's Nursery	Eskbank	0131 654 0070
Cranston Country Nursery	Edgehead	01875 321 370
Milton Bridge Nursery	Penicuik	01968 679 285
Forest Friends Nursery	Roslin	0131 440 4900

Midlothian Council want all eligible 2-year-olds to access their early learning and childcare place in a setting that best suits their individual needs. This may be within a specific early learning and childcare setting, a playgroup or with a childminder. If you have a specific request please contact Pupil Placement to discuss further.

Early learning and childcare places can now be offered over mornings, afternoons or extended sessions to incorporate lunchtime or full day provision (please note your child's 15hrs 50 mins per week of early learning and childcare will be FREE however additional hours may be charged at individual setting rates). Settings are able to offer a flexible delivery of these early learning and childcare spaces to meet the needs of our growing children and families in Midlothian.

Please note it may not be possible to guarantee a place in your first choice. If you have a particular need to request an alternative early learning and childcare setting or if you require further information please contact:  
Pupil Placement on: **0131 271 3733**

Email: [pupil.placement@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:pupil.placement@midlothian.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.midlothian.gov.uk/early-learning](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/early-learning)

