

Starting full-time school

Nottinghamshire schools currently admit children to main school full time in either the term in which they are five or the term before they are five, depending on the school's admission policy and your child's date of birth. This will use your free place for that term. However, children do not have to start school until they are of compulsory school age (see below). Arrangements may be different for voluntary-aided schools.

You can ask to delay taking up a place in school until your child is of compulsory school age, if this is within the same school year, without risk of losing the place.

What is compulsory school age?

Your child is of compulsory school age on 1 January, 1 April or 1 September following their fifth birthday.

- Children who turn five between 1 January and 31 March have to attend school at the beginning of the term after 1 April.
- Children who turn five between 1 April and 31 August have to attend school from the beginning of the term after 1 September.
- Children who turn five between 1 September and 31 December have to attend school from the beginning of the term after 1 January.



Finding out more

The Children's Information Service can provide more information about local:

- childminders
- day nurseries
- holiday playschemes
- out-of-school care
- pre-schools playgroups.

Contact them on 0800 7812168. Or, look them up on the internet at www.childcarelink.gov.uk/notts.

For more information about county council nurseries and schools, contact the admissions team for your district.

For **Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield or Newark**, phone the Education Department North Base on **01623 433 433**.

For **Broxtowe, Gedling or Rushcliffe**, phone the Education Department South Base on **0115 854 6000**.

Nottinghamshire County Council Early Years and Childcare Services is working to make sure that there are enough high-quality early years education places in the county.

For more information about our Early Years and Childcare Services, or if you have any other questions, or need more copies of this leaflet, please contact us at the address below.

Contacting us

email: eydcp@nottsc.gov.uk
phone: **0115 878 7500**
fax: **0115 878 7524**
minicom: **0115 977 3323**
post: **Early Years and Childcare Services, Children and Young Peoples Services Department, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP**
internet: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk
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Contact us if you would like this information in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or in a different language.



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Early Years and Childcare Services

**Early Years
Education
places
in Nottinghamshire**



What is early years education?

Children are learning from birth and their parents and carers are their first and lifelong educators.

Children start their formal early years education in the Foundation Stage. This begins the term following their third birthday. Places are available for every child whose parents want them to have one. This is known as 'the free entitlement'.

All registered providers of early years education are inspected by Ofsted. They must plan the children's learning so that the children are working towards the Early Learning Goals as outlined in the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The Early Learning Goals set out what most children are expected to achieve by the end of the Foundation Stage in the following six areas of learning.

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Mathematical development
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development

Education providers must have an equal opportunities policy and follow the Code of Practice on Special Educational Needs.

What is my child entitled to?

- Five free two-and-a-half hour sessions each week, over 38 weeks of the year. If your provider offers less than 38 weeks please phone 0115 878 7500 for advice.

When can my child go?

All children are entitled to a free place starting from the term after their third birthday.

- Children who are three in January, February or March can have their free place from the start of the summer term.
- Children who are three in April, May, June, July or August can have their free place from the start of the autumn term.
- Children who are three in September, October, November or December can have their free place from the start of the spring term.

Who provides early years education?

Your child may go to any early years setting which has been registered by the Department for Education and Skills, and has a place available. This includes many:

- day nurseries
- independent schools
- nursery centres
- nursery units in schools
- pre-schools or playgroups
- schools with pre-school groups
- childminders
- children's centres



How do I find a place?

If you want to apply for a free place for your child you should contact your chosen provider or school. Only private, voluntary or independent providers and schools with nursery units or foundation stage units can offer places to three-year-olds. You can get a list of registered independent sector providers by phoning **0115 878 7500**.

The five two-and-a-half hour sessions each week are free. If you want more time or services you may have to pay, depending on where your child attends.

You might want to visit more than one setting to help you choose what is most appropriate for your child's early years education. Once you have made your choice, check with the provider as soon as possible that a place is available for your child and confirm the starting date of your child's free place.

Sessions in a county council nursery or school count towards the five sessions entitlement.

Extra support for children with special educational needs

Nottinghamshire County Council's Early Years and Childcare Services is committed to supporting early years and childcare providers to work towards an inclusive approach. This means being able to meet the individual needs of all children. Providers can apply for extra support for children with additional needs. For more information, speak to your provision's manager or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO). They will be able to get information through their Early Years Specialist Teacher.