

Admissions and Settling In

Statement of Purpose

At Torphins Playgroup Practitioners and Managers aim to ensure that the admission of children is fair, equitable and responsive to the needs and preferences of individual children and their parents or carers. This Policy ensures that places are allocated fairly and equitably in accordance with national legislation and policy.

The Equality Act 2010 contains provisions to ensure that any act of discrimination is an unlawful offence and ensures that protection is in place for individuals being discriminated against for any reason. We believe that no child should be excluded or disadvantaged because of ethnicity, culture, religious beliefs, language, family background, special educational needs, disability, gender or ability.

This is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards: 1.1 - 1.5.

Supporting Children's Learning - Statutory Guidance on the Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act (Scotland) 2004 (as amended) Code of Practice, published in 2017, promotes good practice in relation to communicating with parents. The good practice outlined within the document is also in line with Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC).

We recognise due care and attention must be given to the parents, carers and child's need for time to settle into the setting and aim to work in partnership with parents or carers to settle the child into the Playgroup's environment.

We will comply with the Care Inspectorate's registration requirements for children of a specific age only to be admitted to the setting, ensuring that the service provided is age and stage appropriate. This allows the principles of the standards to be put into practice and each individual child to be safe and have appropriate learning and playing opportunities, in line with the Health and Social Care Standards, at points 1.17, 1.19, 1.20, 1.23.

The Early Learning and Childcare Statutory Guidance published in July 2021 follows the provisions as set out in Part 6 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, as it is through these functions that early learning and childcare is defined. We will link to this guidance to assist our delivery of the funded early learning and childcare entitlement for eligible children.

Funded early learning and childcare (ELC) is available to all three- and four-year-olds and eligible two-year-olds. Funding follows the child will help increase choice and flexibility for parents and carers whilst ensuring children benefit from high quality provision. It means that parents and carers – including those of eligible two years olds – will be able to choose to use their child's entitlement at any ELC provider that:

- meets the National Standard
- has a place available and
- is willing to enter into a contract with the local authority

The National Standard sets out what children and families should expect from their early learning experience regardless of where they access their child's funded hours.



Publicity

We will be accessible to all sections of the community. We will:

- Provide basic information about the setting to potential users (in more than one language where appropriate), as per the Health and Social Care Standards at point 2.9.
- Provide Information on how to apply for a place and the supporting documents (proof of residence) required if applying for a funded place.
- Advertise and display information about the setting widely throughout the community (in more than one language where appropriate).
- Consult with families in order to accommodate their needs to avoid excluding anyone.
- Monitor and review information regularly (as per the Early Years Framework (2008) guidance which allows services to make transformational change whilst reviewing their services).
- Promote the funded entitlement of Early Learning and Childcare to families, staff and our community and have clear application processes in place for making administrative processes as simple and streamlined as possible.
- Be clear and transparent on fees and charging policy for any hours that are requested out-with the funded early learning and childcare entitlement.

Waiting Lists

Names can be placed on the waiting list at any time by completing the Playgroup's Waiting List form. The majority of admissions are made according to birth date and date application received. Priority will always be given to children in their pre-school year. Children identified and referred to the setting as having a particular need may also be given priority over strict adherence to the waiting list.

The waiting list will be monitored to ensure that all sections of the community are being reached and to ensure no discrimination is taking place. Proof of the child's identity and home address will be required when accepting ELC Funding.

A child can start Playgroup when a place becomes available or on a date agreed with Playgroup, as soon as they reach their second birthday or when their ELC Funded Entitlement begins. Under Funding Follows the Child the choice of setting available to families is not restricted to their own local authority boundary. Choice must not be restricted by local authority boundaries, however the overall level of choice available in each local authority may vary depending on local capacity and prevailing public health guidance. Therefore, we will work in line with our local authority's admission policies and guidelines in relation to offering the statutory entitlement of funded early learning and childcare to cross boundary children.

Under part 6 of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, an entitlement was introduced in August 2014 for some 2-year-olds. Nurture 2 eligibility and Aberdeenshire ELC Funding information can be found at [Early learning, nurseries and childcare - Aberdeenshire Council](#). Funding applications are overseen by the Development Worker for the Playgroup.



For any unfunded places, parents will be charged a rate per session, as set by the Committee.

Admission

Parents will be issued with a Handbook detailing the sessions and any costs that will be charged for hours/services over and above their funded entitlement. They will also be invited to visit the Playgroup to meet the staff and see the environment. Torphins Playgroup Pre-School is a funded provider of early learning and childcare (ELC) with Aberdeenshire Council local authority to provide the funded entitlement of ELC. From August 2021, when a child is aged 3 and 4, they can get up to a maximum of 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare a year. Admissions for this entitlement will depend on our admissions criteria set out within this policy and Torphins Playgroup Pre-School having a space available. Funded early learning and childcare is also available to eligible children aged 2 if a place is available. From the age of 2 years old until a child qualifies for funded entitlement, parents will be charged a rate per session as set by the Committee.

On admission parents or carers of a child will be:

- Given a copy of the services handbook (giving detailed information and explanations about the setting, its aims, policies and procedures).
- Invited to visit the setting to familiarise themselves with the setting and staff.
- Invited to discuss the admission of their child with a member of staff.
- Asked to provide personal details and information about their child and themselves. Confidentiality of information will be respected at all times.
- A Personal Care Plan is required for every child accessing a care service. This is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards : 1.23, 2.14 4.1

Meals

Children who are eligible for the funded 1140 ELC hours will also receive funded meals whilst attending as part of their statutory entitlement. Children who are not funded will have the option to pay for lunch. All children regardless of age or eligibility for ELC funding will be entitled to free milk and a healthy snack each day.

Settling In

Settling in is an important stage in the transition between home and the Playgroup, or between Playgroup and another setting. We aim to make this a smooth transition by:

- Giving the child and their carer time to familiarise themselves with the environment.
- Offering a warm and welcoming environment and ensuring each child feels included, secure and valued. This is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards: 1.9,1.10,1.11
- When children and their families first arrive at Playgroup, we will have induction in place that ensures positive experiences and an understanding of our nursery policy and procedures.



- Recognising each child as an individual and his or her readiness to leave the parent or carer and adapt to the new environment. This is in line with GIRFEC
- Sensitively dealing with the parent's or carer's readiness to leave their child.
- Parents will be welcome to support their child's transition from home into the new setting by 'phasing in' their child's attendance. Generally we offer an hour initial session, followed by 3 hours, leading into the full day. This can be altered depending on the needs of the child and parents.
- Providing strategies to help parents or carers to work with staff during the settling in period. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act (2006) identifies the key role parents and carers play in a child's life and highlights the importance of parents and carers and staff working together.
- Information will be shared between carers and staff by way of Care Plans and other activities designed to learn about the child's interests and personalities.
- Staggering intake of new children into the Playgroup.
- Providing familiar play and learning activities and experiences. No child will be taken on an outing or visit until they are settled.
- Providing feedback to parents or carers about how their child is progressing and supporting them in the settling in process. If a child does not settle and is unhappy and distressed at being in the Playgroup, the Manager and/or the child's key worker will discuss with the parents or carers the best way forward for the child and the family. This is in line with the Health and Social Care Standards, at points 3.1 and 3.4, - 3.13

Monitoring of this Policy

It will be the responsibility of the Manager to ensure that all staff, including new or temporary staff, are familiar with this policy and to monitor that it is being implemented. Parents and carers will be made aware of this policy through the parents' handbook and Playgroup website. The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that all records are relevant and up to date.

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