



Early Learning and Childcare a guide for childminders

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The Scottish Government

The Scottish Government provide funding to allow three and four year old children to receive 600 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare every year. Some families with two-year-old children also qualify to receive the funded Early Learning and Childcare. Early Learning and Childcare can be provided by; local council nursery, nursery class in a primary school, private day nursery, independent school nursery, playgroup or a [childminder](#).

Childminders and Early Learning and Childcare

Whether or not childminders are commissioned to provide funded Early Learning and Childcare is down to your local authority. SCMA has gathered information on the use of childminders to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare across the 32 local authority areas. The Act calls for delivery to be flexible and meet the needs of children and families. Our concern is that this is not happening across Scotland. The arrangements for delivery of this care vastly varies across each local authority; with childminders not considered as partner providers at all in some areas, to successful placements being arranged in others.

What can a childminder do if the local authority won't contract with them?

Find out what's happening in your area. How does the local authority deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare? Is this provision flexible, as called for by the Act? Check on your local authority website. Information will probably be in the Education section of the website where you can also find a telephone number to find out more. Alternatively, check the Scottish Family Information Service website: scottishfamilies.gov.uk.

Ask parents what they want. Do they want their child to be looked after in a nursery when you can provide consistent, high-quality care? Possibly not. Ask them to make their feelings clear to the local authority by writing to the local authority and their local councillor.

Let SCMA know exactly what's happening in your area. Write to us at information@childminding.org with 'Early Learning and Childcare' in the title of your email.

Write to your local authority, local councillor and MSP. Help them understand about the quality of your service and that your small ratio is often more suitable for 2 year olds. Make it clear to them the impact this could have on your business. Contact details can be found at writetothem.com. A [template letter](#) is available to download from the [Membership Dashboard](#).

What is SCMA doing to help?

We have been gathering as much information as possible about the delivery of funded Early Learning and Childcare in each local authority. We continue to try and engage with local authorities on this issue however, in some areas, this is proving very difficult. SCMA Chief Executive, Maggie Simpson, has met with the First Minister, the Minister for Children and Young People and other MSPs. We have also engaged with Scottish Government, Education Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, ADES, Children in Scotland and various other organisations to keep them informed of the lack of progress in some areas. A report produced by SCMA has been presented to the Scottish Government.

We will support any childminder who is willing to approach their local authority to question why they will not contract with childminders to deliver Early Learning and Childcare. If you would like further support please call us on 01786 445377 or email information@childminding.org with 'Early Learning and Childcare' in the title of your email.

Whether or not local authorities are contracting with childminders to deliver Early Learning and Child-care is set out in the table below (*Numbers correct as of May 2016):

Local Authority Area	Total no. of childminders in area*	Childminders delivering ELCC services	Childminders are or will be an option to deliver ELCC	No apparent plans to use their childminding services	Comments
Aberdeen City	166	√			7 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 5 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds
Argyll & Bute	80	√			30 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
Dumfries & Galloway	141	√			44 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 5 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds
East Ayrshire	209	√			20 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 4 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds
Highland	314	√			140 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 15 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds
North Ayrshire	188	√			Contract with c/m's to deliver ELC to 2 year olds – no details
North Lanarkshire	364	√			94 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 7 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds
Scottish Borders	129	√			37 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 9 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds and 2 for 3 & 4 year olds
West Lothian	274	√			81 cm's signed up to deliver ELCC, 4 delivering ELCC for 2 year olds
Aberdeenshire	328		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC for 2 year olds – info sessions due to take place in October
Angus	173		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC – for 2, 3 & 4 year olds - info sessions currently being planned
Dundee	174		√		Considering using cm's to deliver ELCC but at the moment statutory obligation are being met with local authority provision & partner providers
East Lothian	134		√		Will consider using cm's to deliver ELCC but no parental interest. SCMA would like to meet to discuss further.
Falkirk	218		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC for 2 year olds but at the moment statutory obligation are being met with local authority provision & partner providers
Glasgow	190		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC – for 2 year olds
Midlothian	89		√		Meeting held with c/m's in January to gather interest in delivering ELC.
Moray	124		√		Looking to actively use cm's to deliver ELCC for 2 year olds – info sessions currently being planned
Orkney	30		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC for 2 year olds – cm's currently going through process to register as partner providers
Renfrewshire	93		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC for 2 year olds – cm's will be able to tender in 2017
West Dunbartonshire	53		√		Looking to use cm's to deliver ELCC for 2 year olds but at the moment statutory obligation are being met with local authority provision & partner providers – info sessions for cm's being planned
Western Isles	23		√		May use c/m's from 2016 onwards to address shortfall
Clackmannanshire	70			√	Using local authority and partner provider nurseries
East Dunbartonshire	144			√	Use Community Childminders for 2 year olds not for ELCC
East Renfrewshire	153			√	Will deliver 52 week flexibility in a number of their centres
Edinburgh	387			√	SCMA meeting with LA to discuss ELCC delivery in late August
Fife	492			√	No apparent plans to use cm's yet for delivery despite strong Community Childminding Service in the area.
Inverclyde	57			√	Increasing local provision and staffing levels to meet statutory obligations
Perth and Kinross	191			√	Provision via LA nurseries & partner providers. Will review as move towards 1140 hours
Shetland Islands	15			√	Not commissioning any cm services to deliver ELC
South Ayrshire	122			√	Not considering using cm's
South Lanarkshire	306			√	Not considering using cm's despite 1 registered with HMIE
Stirling	129			√	Using local authority and partner provider nurseries