

What is the free Pre-School Year in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)?

The ECCE is a new scheme designed to give children access to a free Pre-School Year of appropriate programme-based activities in the year before they start primary school.

A good quality pre-school helps get your child ready for *'Big School'*.

Is my child eligible for the ECCE scheme?

If your child is aged

3 years 2 months to
4 years 7 months
on the 1st September

then your child is eligible for the Free Preschool year.

How do I get a place?

- Contact your present provider to ensure that they have a place available.
- If your present provider does not have a place available contact your local City/County Childcare Committee for a list of Childcare Facilities in your area (details of Childcare Committees at back of leaflet).
- Next make contact with some of the childcare facilities to see if they have a place available
- Arrange to view the services to help decide which is suitable
- From October 2009 - a list of childcare facilities in the scheme will be available from your local City/County Childcare Committee.

What if my child is not eligible for a place?

You may still be able to reduce your childcare costs through the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme if your child is to attend a community childcare facility - contact your local City/County Childcare Committee for more details.

What will my child's pre-school place cost me?

If your child is eligible for the scheme then you are entitled to a pre-school session of 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, 38 weeks per year, from September 2010 for which you will **not** be charged anything.

Some full and part time day care services will provide your child with a pre-school session 2 hrs 15 minutes per session, 5 days per week across 50 weeks, for which you will **not** be charged anything.

Some pre-school services may offer the scheme 3 hours 45 minutes per day, 4 days per week, 41 weeks per year, for which you will **not** be charged anything.

You will have to talk to your chosen childcare provider to see what service they have on offer.

Are there any other costs to me?

If you need full or part time care for your pre-school child then you **will** be charged for the additional care hours that you need.

A service may offer you some additional services but these are **optional** to you and you have a choice of availing of them or not.

If you don't want the additional activities for your child, the childcare service must provide an alternative for your child.

How do I choose a childcare service for my child?

A quality service will:

- welcome a visit from a new parent
- provide positive experiences for children by supporting them in their own interests and desire for independence.
- have qualified staff who have been vetted by the Gardaí working with the children
- be notified to the Pre School Inspection Team in the HSE
- help you to understand how your child learns and how you can support your child's learning and development
- use play as a key way in which to help your child learn and develop.

Contact details for the City and County Childcare Committees:

Carlow	059 9140244
Cavan	049 9529882
Clare	065 6864862
Cork City	021 4507942
Cork County	022 23880
Donegal	074 9132416
Dublin City	01 5424100
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	01 2368030
Fingal	01 8077660
Galway	091 752039
Kerry	066 7181582
Kildare	045 861307
Kilkenny	056 7752865
Laois	057 8661029
Leitrim	071 9640870
Limerick City	061 407525/7527
Limerick County	061 600918
Longford	043 42505
Louth	041 6859912
Mayo	094 9047010
Meath	046 9073010
Monaghan	047 72896
North Tipperary	067 44888
Offaly	057 9135878
Roscommon	094 9622540
Sligo	071 9148860
South Dublin	01 4570122
South Tipperary	052 82274
Waterford City	051 860444
Waterford County	058 43601
Westmeath	044 9335454
Wexford	053 9237156
Wicklow	0404 64455

Free Pre-School Year Guide for Parents



Children from Glenfields Community Childcare, Cork City

How does my child qualify
for a
Free Pre-School Year?

Transforming Ireland

