

Where can I access the free places?

Your child can access their free places at any of the providers on the North Somerset list of agreed providers.

This includes school nursery classes, independent, private and voluntary providers, day nurseries, private nursery schools, pre-school playgroups and accredited childminders.

Speak directly to your chosen provider to see if there are places available and what service they offer.

What happens when my child starts school on a part-time basis (and I need him/her to continue at nursery as well)?

When your child starts attending school, even if it is only a few hours per week to start with, the free entitlement will not be available from your provider.

You will have to pay your provider for any hours that your child attends from the start of the funding period.



Contact us

This leaflet is available in large print on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For a list of local, registered, independent, private and voluntary providers please contact:

Family Information Service
Worle Children and
Young People's Centre
Mendip Avenue
Weston-super-Mare BS22 6HN

Tel: 01934 426 300

Fax: 01934 426 066

email: fis@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

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North Somerset
Children and Young People's
Services

Free early education for three and four year olds



www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk

Tel: 01934 426 300

Email: fis@n-somerset.gov.uk



Your questions answered

What will my child receive?

Providers offer early education which is inspected for quality by Ofsted. The providers are required to deliver a play based curriculum called the Early Years Foundation Stage, which continues through the reception year at school. As your child moves into school, providers are required to share information about their learning and development. This information will be used by the teacher to provide learning opportunities that meet your child's needs and help them to settle into school.



What is the entitlement?

Eligible children attending a provider are entitled to receive:

- A maximum of 15 hours free per week up to a maximum of 570 hours per year. A maximum of six funded hours in a day, taken between 8am and 6pm, at a maximum of two providers at any one time, where the minimum session length is 2.5 hours.
- If a provider is open for more than 38 weeks a year it may be possible to stretch the entitlement over more weeks.
- If a parent chooses to take their entitlement with a provider offering fewer than 38 weeks the local authority will not fund the rest of the child's entitlement elsewhere.

In some instances providers may wish to charge for additional services or hours and you will be expected to pay for these yourself. Details on all these arrangements will be available from the provider.

When is my child eligible?

The table below shows when your child will become eligible for their free early education place.

How do I claim the entitlement?

The provider will make the claim on your behalf three times a year, but you will need to complete and sign a form for the hours you wish to claim during head count week. You get this form from your provider.

You should not be charged for your free entitlement as North Somerset funds the providers directly for this provision.

If your child is born between:	They are eligible for a free place from:
1 April – 31 August	1 September following their third birthday
1 September – 31 December	1 January following their third birthday
1 January – 31 March	1 April following their third birthday