

Can my child attend more than one group?

Your child can receive their free hours at more than one provider. A maximum of two providers over a minimum of three days; for example six hours at one pre-school and nine hours with an accredited childminder.

It is important that you tell the person in charge if your child is attending more than one group. Attending more than one pre-school or nursery can be difficult for a young child as different environments can take a while to get used to and disrupt routines.

If the setting your child attends opens for less than 38 weeks, you can still receive a free place. However attending another group for the remainder of the 38 weeks would not be funded and you would need to pay for any sessions provided.

Can my child change groups during the same term?

Normally children move between providers before the start of the school term. Ideally, you will need to give a period of notice if you would like to move your child.

If you don't give enough notice, a free place will not be available until the start of the next term (term one, three or five).

When are the school term dates?

You can get a list of school term dates in Medway from: www.medway.gov.uk/schoolyear or by phoning Medway Family Information Service on **01634 335566**.

Need a list of nurseries, pre-schools and accredited childminders near you?

You can get a list of all nurseries, pre-schools and accredited childminders in your local area from Medway Family Information Service.

How else can FIS help me?

Medway Family Information Service provides:

- **parenting advice and support;**
- **special needs and disabilities support;**
- **activities and club listings;**
- **support for practitioners;**
- **local childcare information;**
- **local health service details.**

We also have a dedicated team, Aiming High, which provides specialist advice and information for parents and carers of children and young people with a disability.

Medway Family Information Service has an online directory allowing you to search a range of relevant information in one place. Or, if you prefer to speak to someone direct, we also have a team of dedicated advisers on hand to answer your call.

Whichever way you prefer to contact us, we're here to help.

Visit www.medwayfisd.com

Email familyinfo@medway.gov.uk

Phone **01634 335566**



family information service
medway

This information can be made available in other formats from **01634 333333**

If you have any questions about this leaflet and you want to speak to someone in your own language please ring **01634 335577**

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family information service

medway

Free nursery education for three and four-year-olds

Information about your child's entitlement in Medway



Medway Family Information Service
01634 335566

Meeting family information needs, first time, every time

Medway
COUNCIL
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Three and four-year-olds in Medway are entitled to free part-time nursery education

Children in Medway can receive their free nursery education at:

- a maintained school nursery class - this provides children with access to the integrated early years foundation stage;
- a registered pre-school or nursery;
- an accredited childminder.

Medway Council will pay for up to 15 hours of childcare each week during school term-time, for children attending any one of the registered pre-schools, nurseries or accredited childminders in Medway. The full entitlement of free hours can be taken over a minimum of three days, varying from two hours to a maximum of 10 hours per day; this is dependent on the provision's opening hours. A maximum of 13 free hours can be taken if your child attends only two days with a provider.

The free entitlement can be taken around lunchtime if arranged in advance with the provider. There may be an extra charge for lunch or you may be able to provide a packed lunch for your child.

All children who receive free nursery education are entitled to a maximum of 15 hours each week, for 38 weeks of the school year. Fees for any additional time are a private matter between parents and providers although the provider should let you know the cost before your child takes up the place.

How it works:

To receive the free nursery education for your child, approach the provider of your choice to request a place. You do not need a voucher or to register your child with the council. You will be asked to sign an agreement confirming what free hours your child will be receiving during the next term. At the beginning of terms one, three and five (in September, January and April), the provider issues the council with a list of all eligible children. Payment will then be made directly to the provider.

Parents should not be asked to pay for the places, nor should they be asked to pay for them in advance with the promise that the provider will refund fees at a later date.

When will my child be old enough?

A child born on or between	will become eligible for a free place from
1 April and 31 August	Start of term one in September following their third birthday
1 September and 31 December	Start of term three in January following their third birthday
1 January and 31 March	Start of term five in April following their third birthday

