

## What happens if agreement is not reached?

South Ayrshire Council has a right to refuse to provide additional funded early learning and childcare in cases where there is insufficient evidence to support a specific request.

Once a child has started Primary 1 in August a deferred place is no longer available. Children experiencing difficulty in Primary 1 will be supported appropriately in school.

## What happens if my child has not attended an early years centre?

Please contact the Head Teacher/ Manager of your local early years centre or primary school who will be able to advise on what should be taken into consideration when deciding what is best for your child.

Deferred entry requests should be submitted online at <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/>. If you require further guidance or advice please contact [edservicesregistration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:edservicesregistration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## Contacts

For further information contact the Head Teacher/Manager of any Early Years Centre or Primary School.

Or contact

- **Quality Improvement Officer – Early Years**  
Tel: 01292 612 024

Or

- **South Ayrshire Council Educational Services**  
Tel: 01292 612162

[south-ayrshire.gov.uk/nurseries-and-childcare](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/nurseries-and-childcare)

## Deferred Entry to Primary School

**Information for parents/carers**





Under current legislation in Scotland parents/carers of children aged 4 years at the start of the school year in August have a choice to either enrol their child for primary school or defer their start until the following August.

Most parents choose to send their child to school as soon as they are eligible.

Decisions about whether or not a child would benefit from an additional year of early learning and childcare will, in all cases, seek to promote the best interests of the child.

You may wish to defer your child's entry to primary school for a number of reasons – the most common being:

- Your child may have additional support needs affecting their development.
- You may feel your child is simply 'not ready' for school.

## How do I apply for an additional year of early learning and childcare?

- In the first instance you should contact the Head Teacher/Manager of the early years centre your child currently attends or phone **South Ayrshire Council's Educational Services: 01292 612 162**

Please note that requests should be submitted online at <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/> by end of February.

Children born in **January** and **February** have the right to:

- Start primary school in August.

or

- Defer entry for an additional year. (A further year of funded early learning and childcare will be granted on request).

- Children born between the school commencement date in August and the end of **December** have the right to:

- Start primary school in August.

or

- Defer entry for an additional year. (A further year of funded early learning and childcare may be granted at the discretion of South Ayrshire Council, after discussion with parents/carers and professionals as to the best interests and needs of the child).

In individual circumstances children with birthdays between March and the school commencement date in August may be granted deferred entry to primary school. The agency/centre requesting the deferred entry is required to complete a Request for Assistance form and where appropriate a well-being assessment.

## How do I decide what is best for my child?

At your child's early years centre take the opportunity to discuss:

- Your child's progress.
- Your child's learning and development and:
  - Ability to communicate own needs, feelings and ideas.
  - Level of independence and self-help.
  - Emotional and personal development, including self-confidence and self-esteem.
  - Relationships and friendships with other children and adults.
  - Arrangements in place for transition to primary school.
  - Experiences and routines which a child can expect in Primary 1.
  - Progression in early level of Curriculum for Excellence.
  - Arrangements in place in primary school to support a range of learning needs.

