

15 Hours
Free

Early Education

for three- and four-year-olds in Oxfordshire



July 2010

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/earlyyears

The pre-school years

As your toddler grows into a young child, you may start to think about what learning opportunities are available outside your home.

The Early Years Service of Oxfordshire County Council plans for learning and care across Oxfordshire.

From September 2010 all three- and four-year-old children can attend free pre-school education for 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year (previously 12½ hours). Your child will have the chance to play with other children, develop their social skills, learn through play, experience new activities and have fun!



Date of third birthday	Government-funded pre-school education starts from
1 April-31 Aug.	Term 1 -Sept.
1 Sep.-31 Dec.	Term 3 -Jan.
1 Jan.-31 Mar.	Term 5 -April

Places are designed to be flexible where possible. In Oxfordshire our local offer of flexibility is for not less than 2½ hours or more than 6 hours in one day. The free hours will be between 8.00am and 6.00pm. Individual providers will have their own flexible offer within these times. You will have to pay for any extra hours.

It is up to you which early education provider you choose:

- a private day nursery;
- a voluntary-run pre-school/playgroup;
- an Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) provider;
- a Children's Centre; or

- a registered childminder working within an approved childminding network.

For more information about our local early education providers, call Oxfordshire Family Information Service on 08452 26 26 36.

Our list of early education providers covers around 570 settings all over the county. To be included on our list providers must:

- follow the quality framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage;
- demonstrate clear professional standards in areas such as quality, safeguarding, support for

special needs, staffing and premises; and

- register with the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted), and have regular inspections.

How do I find out more?

You will receive a more detailed version of this booklet with your Bookstart+ pack

(available from your health visitor at a two year check, or you can collect the pack from your local library). It gives lots of information on how to choose the best early education provider for you and your child.

You can also request a copy from Oxfordshire Family Information Service (OxonFIS).

Please contact OxonFIS on 08452 26 26 36, www.oxonfis.org.uk or fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.org.uk.



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