



SECTION | 01

**Nursery and
primary education
in Newham**

Early years education

Newham Council offers a Best Start in Life Guarantee to all families living in the borough who are pregnant or have children under five years of age.

The Guarantee will ensure all Newham parents have access to:

- 15 hours of free eligible childcare, with this increasing to 30 hours when the Government's proposals are rolled out
- regular Stay and Play sessions every week in each community neighbourhood
- programmes, workshops and sessions offering evidence-based advice and guidance to improve parenting capacity in each neighbourhood
- regular employment advice sessions will be available in each neighbourhood
- in each neighbourhood, a range of family health and development sessions including: antenatal support; the transition to parenthood; the early weeks of life; perinatal wellbeing; breastfeeding initiation; healthy weight and nutrition; managing minor ailments and reducing accidents; and supporting speech and language development.

The Guarantee is delivered in partnership by children's centres, health services including health visitors, libraries, nurseries and early education/childcare providers.

The borough is split into eight community neighbourhood areas, with each area supported by a lead children's centre, and some areas also supported by supporting children's centres. For more information, please visit www.newham.gov.uk/childrenscentres

Research has shown that children who have regularly attended activities at children's centres do better at school on average than those who have not.

As a guide, in every community neighbourhood area parents and carers can expect to see at least the below activities on offer:

Stay and play activities - parents/carers stay and play with their children, learning how their children

learn and develop through play. Activities range from messy play to block building, and heuristic play to mark making.

Parent workshops – parents and carers can find out how best to support early learning and development, how to support their child's physical and mental health, learn coping strategies, improve sleep routines, get support with toilet training and much more.

Triple P – a parenting programme ranging from sessions to a six-week course to learn and then practise new ways to improve parenting skills, confidence and knowledge.

Bookstart – free books for all children aged 0-12 months and 3-4 years old to inspire a love of reading.

Storytelling, singing and rhymes – these sessions model how to engage children in storytelling, singing and rhymes; this helps communication and language development as well as emotional development.

Music and movement – a chance for children and parents/carers to get active using dance and music. A great way to promote physical health development.

Chatterbox – an opportunity for assessment and advice for parents/carers who have concerns about their child's speech and language development.

Nursery education

Nurseries and nursery classes in primary schools are for three and four year olds, before they start full-time school. On page 8 you will find information on how to find a nursery place for your child.

The Early Years Foundation Stage framework

This statutory framework sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well. It ensures children are kept healthy and safe and that they have the knowledge and skills they need to start school. The framework is for school leaders, school staff, childcare providers and childminders.

School inspections

By law, all schools must be inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). This is to make sure schools are working to provide the best education they can. Every school in Newham has been inspected in the last four years. Inspection reports can be obtained by contacting the school direct or by visiting the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Your child's progress

Teachers keep a regular check on every child's progress to make sure they are doing as well as possible at school. In nursery and primary schools there are four important times when this is done:

- when they start nursery
- when they start primary school
- at the end of Year 2, at about age seven – this is called 'end of Key Stage 1 assessment'
- at the end of primary school, at about 11 years – this is called 'end of Key Stage 2 assessment'.

At the end of Key Stage 2, assessment results for all schools are published each year. The results for summer 2014 are available at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Visiting schools

Most parents are happy for their child to go to their local or catchment area school. When visiting a school for the first time, you may wish to ask the following questions:

- where is the school and what staffing does it have?
- what learning resources will my child have access to?
- what will playtime be like for my child?
- who will look after my child if they feel unwell?
- what school meals are available?
- what support is given to children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities?
- what support is given to very able children?
- how does the school deal with problems such as bullying or discrimination?

Nursery education

Information and application process

We encourage as many parents as possible to make sure their children have a nursery education.

Nursery education prepares children for school and helps them to pick up basic learning and social skills.

We have seven nursery schools and nursery classes in the majority of the primary schools in Newham. Children are normally offered a place for mornings or afternoons for the whole week.

Children can only have a nursery place in one Newham nursery school or nursery class in an infant or primary school. You cannot take a morning place in one school and an afternoon place in another.

If you are offered a nursery place, your child must attend regularly. If they do not attend for a prolonged period of time they risk losing their place. There are also a number of private, voluntary and independent sector nursery providers and approved childminders where early education places are available.

Remember, getting a place in a nursery within a school does not mean you will automatically get a place in their reception class. You will need to apply for a reception class for your child to be considered and your child will not get priority for a reception place just because they attend the nursery.

Register for nursery

Find out which is your local nursery or which one you prefer for your child. You can register your child for a nursery place when they are one year old. If you have recently moved into the borough, you should register as soon as you have moved into your new home. Please remember, it is not 'first come, first served'. Registering early does not mean you will get priority for a place over those families who apply after you. See 'How we offer places' to find out more. Due to high demand we recommend that you register at more than one nursery.

Having a nursery place does not guarantee a place in any particular primary school. Equally, you keep

the same right to a primary school place even if you do not take up a nursery place.

How to register your child

Make an appointment with the school after your child's second birthday or as soon as you have moved into your new home if this is later. You will need to take the documents listed on pages 37-38.

Explain any circumstances that you feel may give your child priority for a place. Examples include special educational needs or having a brother or sister at the school.

Ask how likely it is that a place will be available. The school will let you know in writing whether your child has a place or not a few weeks before the term starts.

If you are offered a nursery place, you must write or call to accept it within two weeks, otherwise you may lose it. If you are not offered a place, you will be added to the waiting list. You cannot appeal but you can try a different nursery.

How we offer places

Each nursery school or class has a limit on how many children it can take. Where there are more applicants than places available the Admissions Committee for the school's Governing Body must apply their published over subscription criteria to determine which children should be offered. This is done by putting all applications in a rank order based on their priority group and home to school distance tie break within each group.

For Newham community nursery schools and nursery classes in community schools the order of priority is detailed below. For all other schools both in and out of Newham check the schools website.

- Children with assessed special educational needs will be given priority. This will usually be in the local school/class, but may be elsewhere when a child's needs can only be met at those nursery schools/classes.

- Children in the care of the local authority will also be given priority for local nursery schools/classes.

If there are more children than the number of places available in other cases, places are offered:

- First to children who will get one term in nursery before starting primary school
- then to children who will get two terms in nursery and so on.

In each age group we admit children in this order:

1. Children who live locally and have a brother or sister at the school
2. Children who live locally but do not have a brother or sister at the school
3. Children who live elsewhere in Newham and have a brother or sister at the school
4. Children who live elsewhere in Newham
5. All other children.

If a decision has to be made between children in one of the groups, a place is given to the child who lives nearest to the school by walking distance (see page 29). If there are any places remaining, then these are offered to other children using rules one, two, three and four (above).

When the nursery cannot offer a place, your child will be put on a waiting list for the relevant year group.

Free early years education for two-year-olds

Families on a low income may qualify for a free early education place for children aged two (from the term after their second birthday)*. To find out if you are eligible please call 020 3373 0980 or visit www.newham.gov.uk/twoyearoldchildcare

*A free place means that children can access a total of 570 hours of free early education each year.

To find out more visit www.newham.gov.uk/schoolfinder for more information and see page 4 for information on how to find your catchment area.