

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Carál Ní Chuilín MLA
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Carál Ní Chuilín MLA has asked:
To ask the Minister of Education to detail the community groups that his Department is funding childcare places in, broken down by constituency.

ANSWER

My Department does not directly fund childcare places however it does support community and voluntary groups to provide a range early learning and childcare provision in local areas.

Details of the different schemes have been deposited in the Assembly Library.



Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education

Bright Start School Age Childcare Grant Scheme

The Bright Start School Age Childcare (SAC) Grant Scheme provides up to 25% funding towards running costs for eligible school age social economy childcare providers in areas of disadvantage, rural areas and on the school estate. The scheme supported 44 settings in 2024-25; 41 of these are community/voluntary providers. Provider information is held based on Trust area, not constituency. The breakdown by Trust area is as follows:

Community and voluntary provider	Trust Area
Forthspring	Belfast
Upper Andersontown Community Forum	Belfast
Sólás	Belfast
Ardoyne Afterschools Club	Belfast
An Droichead	Belfast
Short Strand Community Forum	Belfast
Carryduff Play Care Centre	Belfast
Blackie River Community Group	Belfast
Bloomfield Community Association	Belfast
Ionad Uíbh Eachach	Belfast
St Teresa's Primary School	Belfast
The HUBB Community Resource Centre	Belfast
Taughmonagh Community Forum Ltd. (Trading as Scribbles Day Nursery	Belfast
Mornington Community Project	Belfast
Larne Community Care Centre	Northern
Rasharkin Women's Group	Northern
Pomeroy Afterschool	Northern
Loughgiel Community Association	Northern

Community and voluntary provider	Trust Area
Draperstown Afterschool Club	Northern
St Colmcille's Primary School	Northern
St John's Primary School	Northern
Magherafelt Women's Group - The Kidzlodge Childcare	Northern
Jordanstown School	Northern
Lisbarnett & Lisbane Community Association Ltd.	South Eastern
Hollywood Family Trust (HFT)	South Eastern
Killinchy After School Club	South Eastern
Ballymacash Primary School	South Eastern
North Down YMCA	South Eastern
Kids United Play Care Facilities	Southern
Derrytrasna Breakfast & Afterschool Club	Southern
Zero-8-Teen	Southern
Cairde Uí Néill	Southern
Krafty Kidz	Southern
Drumellan County Association	Southern
Desart Lodge Nursery	Southern
Tannaghmore After School Club	Southern
Erne East Community Partnership	Western
Drumahoe Child Care Ltd.	Western
Omagh Early Years Centre	Western
Space Stations	Western
Kids Inn After School Club	Western

Pre-school Education Programme

The Department, via the Education Authority, funds non-statutory pre-school education providers that provide pre-school education places as part of the Pre-School Education Programme. Information on providers is published on the Department's website at [School enrolments - school level data | Department of Education](#).

Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme

Community and voluntary childcare providers can access financial support for eligible working parents as part of the Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme introduced in September 2024. Through this scheme, working parents eligible for Tax Free Childcare can benefit from a 15% reduction in their childcare costs. Childcare providers receive a payment to administer the Scheme. At 31 March 2025, 168 community and voluntary providers had registered for the NICSS. The breakdown by constituency is as follows:

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
First Steps Day Nursery	Belfast East
Campbell College Kindergarten	Belfast East
St Colmcille's Pre-School	Belfast East
Ballybeen Women's Day Care	Belfast East
Ballybeen Women's Toddle Group	Belfast East
Belmont Playcare	Belfast East
Oasis Early Years	Belfast East
Greenway Women's Centre Childcare	Belfast East
Orange Pips Playgroup	Belfast East
Naiscoil Na Seolta	Belfast East
Stormont Playgroup	Belfast East

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Bloomfield Playgroup	Belfast East
Wishing Well Daycare	Belfast North
St Bernards Pre-School Playgroup	Belfast North
Ben Madigan Daycare	Belfast North
Kinderkids Day Nursery at Cliftonville	Belfast North
Shalom Daycare	Belfast North
Kinderkids 2 McSweeney	Belfast North
Ligoniel Family Centre	Belfast North
Holy Cross Pre-School Playgroup	Belfast North
Wee Chicks Creche	Belfast North
174 Trust Playgroup	Belfast North
Glengormley Integrated Pre-School Playgroup	Belfast North
Bulrush Day Nursery	Belfast North
Childcare Services at Queens	Belfast South
Downey House Pre-School	Belfast South
Fullerton House Playgroup	Belfast South
Paddington's Little Treasures Day Nursery	Belfast South
Petals Daycare & Afterschools	Belfast South
An Droichead Daycare	Belfast South
Victoria College Daycare	Belfast South
YMCA Daycare & Afterschools	Belfast South
Scribbles Day Nursery	Belfast South
Carryduff Play Care Centre	Belfast South
Daisies Playgroup at St Andrews	Belfast South
Puddleducks Day Nursery	Belfast South
St Polycarps Playgroup	Belfast South
Leadhill PS Pre-School Playgroup	Belfast South

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Blackie River Daycare	Belfast West
Whiterock Childrens Centre	Belfast West
Curam Leanai Na Fuisseoige	Belfast West
Alessie Centre Early Years Day Care	Belfast West
Small Wonders Childcare	Belfast West
Falls Womens Centre Day Nursery	Belfast West
Newhill First Steps Childcare Centre	Belfast West
UACF Daycare	Belfast West
Holy Trinity Centre	Belfast West
Acre Wood Daycare	Belfast West
Careers N Kids	Belfast West
Ionad Uibh Eachach	Belfast West
Glen Community Parent Youth Group	Belfast West
SEN Space & Respite Services CIC Pre-School	Belfast West
Hobby Horse Playgroup	Belfast West
Black Mountain Playgroup	Belfast West
Shankill Womens Centre Childcare	Belfast West
Footprints Womens Centre Daycare	Belfast West
Larne Community Care Centre Day Nursery	East Antrim
Hansel and Gretel Pre-School	East Antrim
Banana Bunch Playgroup	East Antrim
Gleno Pre-School	East Antrim
Millburn Community Playgroup	East Londonderry
Dry Arch Childrens Centre Day Nursery	East Londonderry
Portrush Community Playgroup	East Londonderry
Harpurs Hill Children and Family Centre Ltd Playgroup	East Londonderry

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Appletree Childcare	East Londonderry
Playhouse Activity Centre Playgroup	East Londonderry
Stepping Stones Creche	East Londonderry
Dry Arch Children's Centre Day Nursery	East Londonderry
Rainbow Community Childcare	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Glendurragh Childcare Services Limited	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Fermanagh Early Years Children & Family Centre	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Little Acorns Playgroup	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Donagh Wee Folk Playschool	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
The Woolstore	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Moy Area Playgroup	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Little Acorns Creche	Foyle
Dunluce Creche	Foyle
Jack and Jill Childcare Playgroup	Foyle
The Womens Centre Creche	Foyle
Eglinton Community Pre-School	Foyle
Rainbow Daycare (Wraparound)	Foyle
Tiny Tots Community Playgroup	Foyle
Drumahoe Childcare Ltd	Foyle
First Steps Day Nursery	Lagan Valley
Sunshine Community Playgroup & Pre-School	Lagan Valley
Ballymacash Playgroup	Lagan Valley
Seymour Hill Pre-School & Playgroup	Lagan Valley
Rainbow Corner Pre-School & Playgroup	Lagan Valley
Naiscoil Mhachaire Ratha	Mid Ulster
Tober Tinys Community Playgroup	Mid Ulster
Naiscoil Charn Tochair	Mid Ulster

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Kidz Lodge Childcare	Mid Ulster
Naiscoil Ghreanachain	Mid Ulster
Little Buds Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Kidzone Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Bawn Bunnies Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
The Firs Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Naiscoil an Cheide	Newry & Armagh
Apple Blossom Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Happy Days Community Childcare Centre	North Antrim
Rasharkin Community Playgroup	North Antrim
Gracehill and Galgorm Playgroup	North Antrim
Cloughmills Early Years	North Antrim
Broughshane Playgroup Ltd	North Antrim
Taylorstown Cross Community Playgroup	North Antrim
Oakey Dokey Day Care	North Down
Little Acorns Pre-School	North Down
Ladybirds Childcare	North Down
Ballycrochan Playgroup	North Down
St Malachys Playgroup	North Down
Bo-Peep Corner Pre-School Playgroup	North Down
Bangor West Nursery Playgroup	North Down
Bangor Abbey Pre-School Centre Ltd.	North Down
Early Days Preschool (Bangor) Limited	North Down
Kilbride Playgroup	South Antrim
Ballymacward Pre-School Playgroup	South Antrim
Mallusk Community Playgroup	South Antrim
Mulberry Bush Playgroup	South Antrim

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Crumlin Integrated Pre-School	South Antrim
Sleepy Hollow Early Childhood Centre	South Antrim
Newcastle Preschool Playgroup	South Down
Childrens Lane Creche	South Down
Drumaness Cross Community Playgroup	South Down
Atticall Playgroup	South Down
Rathkeltair Cross Community Preschool	South Down
Teconnaught Cross Community Pre-School	South Down
Puzzles Playgroup	South Down
Kilkeel Playgroup	South Down
Brackenagh Busy Bees Playgroup	South Down
Castle Gardens Pre-School	Strangford
Bees Nees Early Years Centre	Strangford
Movilla Playgroup & Nursery	Strangford
Ballygowan Community Pre-School & Playgroup	Strangford
Evergreen Wood Playschool	Strangford
Kilmood Playgroup	Strangford
Little Stars Playgroup	Strangford
Kidz Patch Playgroup	Upper Bann
Peatlands Playgroup	Upper Bann
Bleary Busy Bees Pre-School	Upper Bann
Loughshore Playgroup	Upper Bann
Ozanam Daycare	Upper Bann
Derrymacash Playgroup	Upper Bann
Drumellan Playgroup	Upper Bann
Totz n Teenz	Upper Bann
North Lurgan Playgroup	Upper Bann

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Cots and Tots	Upper Bann
Epworth Playgroup	Upper Bann
Derrytrasna Playgroup	Upper Bann
Taghnevan Preschool Playgroup	Upper Bann
Tannaghmore Gardens Playgroup	Upper Bann
Moyraverty Playgroup	Upper Bann
Laurencetown Pre-School	Upper Bann
Ashgrove Pre-School Playgroup	Upper Bann
Little Oaks Pre-School	Upper Bann
Naiscoil Na Banna	Upper Bann
Noahs Ark Playgroup	Upper Bann
Monbrief Playgroup	Upper Bann
Omagh Early Years Daycare Centre	West Tyrone
Holy Family Playgroup	West Tyrone
Smart Attack Playgroup	West Tyrone
First Steps Childrens Centre	West Tyrone
Playtime Childcare Centre	West Tyrone
Sunflower Early Years Group	West Tyrone
Around the Corner Daycare	West Tyrone
Rascals Community Playgroup	West Tyrone
Little Flower Playgroup	West Tyrone
McClintock Pre-School Centre	West Tyrone
White Hare Daycare	West Tyrone

*Organisation type is based on data provided by Family Support NI in January 2025 and NICSS data at March 2025

Pathway Fund

Community and voluntary settings may also apply to the Pathway Fund which provides a contribution to the cost of delivering projects aimed at improving the development of children at risk of educational underachievement. To date, the following projects have received an offer of funding in 2025-26. The breakdown by constituency is as follows:

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Ballybeen Women's Centre	Belfast East
Ballymacarrett Youth and Community Project	Belfast East
Greenway Women's Centre	Belfast East
174 Trust	Belfast North
Ashton Community Trust	Belfast North
Holy Cross Preschool/Playgroup	Belfast North
Ligoniel Family Centre	Belfast North
Star Neighbourhood Centre	Belfast North
Wee Chicks Fitness CIC	Belfast North
An Droichead LTD	Belfast South
Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	Belfast South
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	Belfast South
Royal Mencap Society	Belfast South
SOLAS Special Needs	Belfast South
St Malachys Preschool Playgroup	Belfast South
Women Too Windsor Women's Centre	Belfast South
Black Mountain Playgroup	Belfast West
Blackie River Community Groups	Belfast West
Cairde Gaelscoil na Móna	Belfast West

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Falls Women's Centre	Belfast West
Glen Community Parent Youth Group Daycare	Belfast West
Hobby Horse Playgroup	Belfast West
Holy Trinity Centre	Belfast West
Ionad Uíbh Eachach	Belfast West
Kids Together Belfast	Belfast West
Newhill First Steps	Belfast West
Roden Street Community Development Group	Belfast West
Scoil na Fuiseoige	Belfast West
Shankill Women's Centre	Belfast West
St John's Preschool Playgroup	Belfast West
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	Belfast West
Whiterock Childrens Centre	Belfast West
Ballee Community Association	East Antrim
Ballyclare Family Focus Little Blossoms Pre- preschool	East Antrim
Doagh Preschool Playgroup	East Antrim
Larne Community Care Centre	East Antrim
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission Preschool	East Antrim
Causeway Pre-school Portrush	East Londonderry
Harpurs Hill Children & Family Centre Ltd	East Londonderry
Limavady Community Development Initiative	East Londonderry
Little Rascals Community Playgroup	East Londonderry
Magilligan Community Playgroup	East Londonderry
Orchard Community Playgroup	East Londonderry

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Roundabout Playgroup	East Londonderry
St Colum's Pre-school	East Londonderry
West Bann development	East Londonderry
Acorn Womens Group	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Buddy Bear Trust	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Early Years the Organisation for Young Children	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Naiscoil An Traonaigh	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Newtownbutler Playgroup	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Caw Community Playgroup	Foyle
Creggan Preschool & Training Trust	Foyle
Derry Well Women	Foyle
Dunluce Family Centre	Foyle
Foyle Down Syndrome Trust	Foyle
Foyle Women's Aid	Foyle
Little Orchids Limited	Foyle
Rainbow Child and Family Centre Limited	Foyle
Strathfoyle Women's Activity Group Ltd	Foyle
Tiny Tots Community Playgroup	Foyle
Treehouse Creche	Foyle
Waterside Women's Centre	Foyle
Anahilt Playgroup	Lagan Valley
Atlas Women's Centre Ltd	Lagan Valley
Carr Pre School	Lagan Valley
SEN Space Care and Respite Services CIC	Lagan Valley
Clogher Valley Playgroup	Mid Ulster

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
First Steps Women's Centre	Mid Ulster
Gran Tots Playgroup	Mid Ulster
Kiddies Castle Early Years	Mid Ulster
Little Acorns Cross Community Playgroup	Mid Ulster
Lollipop Playgroup	Mid Ulster
Magherafelt Womens Group LTD	Mid Ulster
Pomeroy Preschool Playgroup	Mid Ulster
Rainbow Daycare (Eglish) Ltd.	Mid Ulster
Slieve Gallion Community Preschool	Mid Ulster
ToberTinys Community Playgroup	Mid Ulster
Apple Blossom Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Bawn Bunnies Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Brackenagh Busy Bees Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Dara Pre-School	Newry & Armagh
Kidzone	Newry & Armagh
Mount St Catherine's Little Buds Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Strawberry Tree Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Tannaghmore Gardens Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
The Firs Playgroup	Newry & Armagh
Hollybank Pre-School	North Antrim
Portrush Community Playgroup	North Antrim
Kilcooley Women's Centre	North Down
Play-A-Way Preschool	North Down
Crumlin Integrated Playgroup	South Antrim
Atticall Playgroup	South Down
Home-Start Down District	South Down

Community and voluntary provider	Constituency
Little Folk Playgroup, Rostrevor	South Down
Naíscoil Bheanna Boirche (Caisleán Nua)	South Down
Saul Community Preschool	South Down
Busy Bees Pre-school Bleary	Upper Bann
Chrysalis Women's Centre	Upper Bann
Happy Tots Playgroup	Upper Bann
Monbrief Pre-School Playgroup	Upper Bann
Moyraverty Pre school Playgroup	Upper Bann
Taghenvan Preschool Playgroup	Upper Bann
Totz N Teenz	Upper Bann
Ardstraw Community Playgroup	West Tyrone
Carebears Pre-school	West Tyrone
Castlederg Childcare Services Ltd	West Tyrone
Denamona Pre-school	West Tyrone
First Steps Community Playgroup	West Tyrone
First Steps Day Care Ltd	West Tyrone
Happy Faces Playgroup	West Tyrone
Little Friends Playgroup	West Tyrone
Magic Roundabout Playgroup	West Tyrone
Naíscoil na Deirge	West Tyrone
Playtime Eskra	West Tyrone
Rascals Community Playgroup	West Tyrone
Smart Attack Childcare	West Tyrone
St Cairealls Community Playschool	West Tyrone
St. Brigid's Play School Mountfield	West Tyrone
Sunflower Early Years Playgroup	West Tyrone

* Source: Early Years (EYO)