

Developmental Programme for 2-3 Year Olds - Expression of Interest.

The Sure Start Developmental Programme for 2-3 Year Olds is one of a wide range of Programmes available for families in the area.

To support children to flourish, our programmes celebrate the uniqueness of each child and nurtures their development. Our environments are warm and supportive where children feel safe to explore and be curious.

At sure start, we recognise that parents have the expertise and we work closely with them - exploring and exchanging ideas to support children's development in their home and in our setting.

There are a limited number of places on the programme, which will be offered to children and parents who can benefit most.

Submission of this Expression of Interest is no guarantee of a place on the programme. The programme runs from September – June for 2.5 hours per day Monday - Thursdays. A Stay and Play is held once per month that parents/ carers **must** attend to retain their child's place. Services are also available over the summer period.

To be considered for the programme:

- Children must be a minimum of 2 years of age on 1st July of the intake year and in their pre nursery year.
- Children must live within the East Belfast Sure Start area.
- The Family must be registered with the Sure Start Project prior to commencement the programme.
- Parents must commit to ensuring their child will attend on a regular basis (minimum of 80% attendance)
- Parents must agree to attend regular Stay and Play sessions (minimum 80% attendance) and accept 4 home visits per year.

Locations of programmes: (subject to change/ dependent on funding)

- Ballyoran Centre, Ballybeen,
- Carew Centre, Tamar Street (2 programmes with one operating with lower number of children.)
- East Belfast Network Centre, 55 Templemore Avenue (2 programmes)

Little Learners - Expression of Interest.



Our Little Learners Programme is a supportive small group environment for 6 children. There is a high staff-to-child ratio of 1 adult to 2 children. We work in partnership with therapists in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to ensure we fully support the children's needs.

To support children to flourish, our Little Learners programme celebrates the uniqueness of each child and nurtures their development. Our environments are warm and supportive where children feel safe to explore, be themselves, respond to their innate drive to be curious and develop their own sense of identity. These spaces are carefully created and are low arousal, with calming, neutral colours, soft lighting and soft cosy furnishings with resources include natural materials, real items, loose parts - encouraging curiosity and stimulation of the senses. We provide sensory resources to meet children's sensory needs and support regulation.

We recognise that parents have expertise and we work closely with them – exploring and exchanging ideas to support children's development at home and in our setting.

To be eligible for a place children should be referred or are on a referral pathway to the Child Development Clinic/ Speech and Language/ Occupational Therapy.

Little Learners operates 3 sessions per week at 2 hours per session with a stay and play session once per month and a Nurture Space/ Support Groups for parent carers to attend.

Submission of this Expression of Interest is no guarantee of a place on the programme.
All programmes are subject to funding.

Have you applied for any other specialist intervention programme for your child, which will take place from September? (e.g. Mencap or Solas)

YesNo

If yes, which programme? _____

NOTE: All information provided will be treated in the strictest of confidence. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 East Belfast Sure Start are obliged to ensure that your information is accurate and up to date. We may use the information provided on this form to update your family details currently held on our secure database.



Family Details

What programme do you wish to apply for - Programme for 2 Year old /Little Learners/ Both
(please circle)

Name of child:		Date of Birth : Gender :	Languages Spoken:
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First Parent/ carer Name D.O.B	Second parent/ carer (if applicable) Name D.O.B
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Address Postcode: e-mail address:	Address Postcode: e-mail address:
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Phone Numbers Mobile:	Phone Numbers Mobile :
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Language spoken:	Language spoken:
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Are you an existing user of an East Belfast Sure Start service e.g.? family support, child development sessions, parent and toddler group etc.?

YES / NO

If yes what service do you access?

Do you have support from any other services? e.g. Family Support Hub, Social Services etc.? If yes please provide details.



Tell us about your child. What are your hopes for you and your child if they receive a place in this programme?

Tell us about your child's likes and dislikes. What do they enjoy? What are they good at and what do they find tricky?

How is your child communicating? E.g. when they like something or don't like something? When they want or need something? (e.g. do they use words, sounds, pull you by the hand, point, cry, bring things over to you)

Is there anything else we need to know about your child?



Please tick if your child is supported by any of the following professionals:

Consultant Pediatrician (Name and Contact Details _____)

Speech and Language Therapy (Name and Contact Details _____)

Health Visitor (Name and Contact Details _____)

Occupational Therapist (Name and Contact Details _____)

Physiotherapist (Name and Contact Details _____)

Dietician (Name and Contact Details _____)

Social Worker (Name and Contact Details _____)

Other (Name and Contact Details _____)

Do you give permission for us to discuss your child's progress with the above named professionals? YES NO

Information in relation to the IMMEDIATE Family

Please tell us about your immediate family. Who lives in your household? What other children are in your home and what are their ages? What are your challenges e.g. mental health, medical conditions etc.,



Supporting Statement

This supporting statement should be completed by either a sure start staff member that knows your family or another professional e.g. health visitor, GP etc.

The programme for 2 year olds is suited to all two years old's but places will be prioritised for children who will benefit the most due to the needs of the child and/ or the family. The Little Learners programme is targeted support to children with social and communication difficulties, and in particular those children whose development may be compromised by social, emotional, environmental or physical factors. Please note when completing this statement the response needs to clearly demonstrate how the programmes will meet the child's/ family needs.

Please include as much information as possible in relation to the child's development and the family dynamics. Parents must co-sign all information provided.

NB: This section will not require completion by all families. A parent cannot complete this section. Parents must co-sign all information provided.

Name of person providing statement

Job Title:

Phone Number:

Signature of person providing statement _____

Date _____

Signature of parent/carer _____

Date _____



Declaration by Parent/Carer

I confirm that all information provided is accurate

I confirm that my child will be 2 years of age on or before 1st July of the intake year.

I confirm that my child lives within the Ward areas covered by East Belfast Sure Start.

I confirm that my family is registered with East Belfast Sure Start.

I confirm that I am prepared to participate in the programme by committing to attend any Stay and Play sessions and Parent Workshops and accept Home Visits to discuss my child's progress.

I confirm that I will ensure that my child has a minimum of 80% attendance on the programme

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Signed _____ Date _____ (Parent/Carer)

**Please return the completed application form to
one of the East Belfast Sure Start settings or post it to
East Belfast Sure Start
East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue, BT5 4FP
by 17th April 2025**

**Please DO NOT include any documents with this form,
e.g. Birth Certificate, proof of address.**